FBIS DAILY REPORT

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FOREIGN MINISTER ON CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES

PY030151 Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 2 Jun 83 p 1

[Text] Yesterday, Foreign Minister Aguirre Lanari stated that there is a de facto cessation of hostilities with Great Britain and that Argentina does not intend to renew them. Minister Lanari -- who made these statements after a meeting of the national cabinet -- pointed out that signing a cessation of hostilities which England would like to see could only take place once Great Britain accepts the main condition; to negotiate the dispute about sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands.

"Therefore," he added, "we are not going to accept any pressures. What we really want are negotiations conducted in good faith on that issue which represents the main point and point of disagreement." Minister Lanari thus ruled out any possibility of signing a cessation of hostilities with England such as London would like.

Moreover, the government yesterday recalled that the day of the affirmation of Argentine rights over the Malvinas, the islands and the Antarctic will be celebrated on 10 May as established by law 20,561 issued on 14 November 1973.

CONCERN OVER FOREIGN FISHING IN SOUTH ATLANTIC

PY020057 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1430 GMT 25 May 83

[Excerpts] Mar del Plata 25 May (DYN) -- Captain Milciades Espoz Espoz, national director of the sea food distribution center located in this city, reported here today that 10 Spanish, 10 Japanese and 70 to 90 Polish fishing boats are currently operating in the economic exclusion zone that Great Britain established in 1982 after the Anglo-Argentine war over the Malvinas.

Espoz Espoz pointed out that the fishing operation in that area is now so extensive that "our fishing resources could well be under what could be expected from our 2 million-square-meter [as received] continental shelf."

Talking to reporters in Mar del Plata, Espoz Espoz explained that "Polish, GDR, Soviet, and Japanese fishing fleets operated in our continental shelf" before Great Britain imposed the 200-mile exclusion zone around the islands.

Espoz Espoz added: "We propose two solutions to solve this problem -- to ask Brazilian and Uruguayan authorities to undertake jointly with Argentina the defense of our sea coast by restricting the access of foreign fishing boats to ports and to other facilities, so as to force such ships to solve their problems with their mother ships. This would mean the end of competition between Montevideo and Rio Grande as ports that offer services to those fleets."

"We should also urgently increase the number of our fishing boats," Espoz Espoz went on, "so that we can make use of our resources and compete on the international market on the basis of appropriate financial conditions and, if necessary, of government level negotiations with Arab and East European countries."

COMMUNIST PARTY GRANTED NATIONWIDE LEGAL STATUS

PY020215 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2056 GMT 1 Jun 83

[Text] Santa Fe, 1 Jun (DYN) -- Today here Federal Judge Hector Tripichio granted the Communist Party legal status at the national level. The Communist Party has thus become the fourth political party to be recognized legally following the Justicialist and Radical Parties and the Integration and Development Movement (MID).

The procedure for obtaining legal status took place here since the Communist Party established its headquarters in Santa Fe city in order to obtain its nationwide legal status after having firmly obtained it in 10 different districts.

The customary audience which is held before recognizing a party was attended by the legal representatives of the Justicialist Party, the MID, the Social Democratic Party, the Party for Social Democracy and the Christian Democratic Party which, like the judge, raised no objections against recognizing the Communist Party as a national party.

Judge Tripichio's ruling stated that the "Communist Party is herewith recognized as a national party with the exclusive right to use the name" and at the same time its charter, guidelines for political actions, and declaration of principle "to abide by the laws in force" are approved.

IDB GRANTS $78.5 MILLION LOAN FOR AGRICULTURE

PY020349 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2233 GMT 1 Jun 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 1 Jun (DYN) -- The IDB local office reported today that the IDB has granted two loans to Argentina for a total of $78.5 million for a medium-level technical training and agricultural development and expansion program. These loans -- $53.4 million from the interregional capital and $25.1 million from the funds for special operations -- will be used by the Education Ministry in coordination with provincial organizations.

These funds will be used to implement a program aimed at tripling the number of medium-level agricultural experts and technical assistants that can be trained, which will increase from 3,500 to 10,500 students.

BRIEFS

1982 MEAT EXPORTS -- Buenos Aires, 23 May (NA) -- The National Grain Board [JNG] has reported that Argentina exported 611,280 tons of meat and meat byproducts during 1982, adding that the main buyers were the USSR with 21.7 percent and the EEC with 21.4 percent. The main EEC buyers were the FRG with 28,984 tons and Great Britain with 12,478 tons. The USSR imported 76,554 tons, while Egypt imported 50,027 tons and the United States bought 31,503 tons. The only Latin American countries that bought Argentine meat and meat byproducts were Chile with 6,217 tons and Peru with 9,971 tons. [Summary] [Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2035 GMT 23 May 83 PY]

1982 FISH EXPORTS, CATCH -- Buenos Aires, 24 May (NA) -- The Maritime Interests Secretariat reported today that Argentine fish exports amounted to $184 million and the fish catch totalled 459,000 tons during 1982. [Excerpt] [Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1652 GMT 24 May 83 PY]

PRESIDENT SILES ZUAZO TO VISIT CARACAS IN JULY

PY311420 Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 31 May 83

[Text] The Bolivian president plans to attend the 200th anniversary of the birth of Liberator Simon Bolivar. Hernan Siles Zuazo will visit Caracas next July to take part in the anniversary ceremony. The invitation was made by Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins and accepted by the Bolivian Chief of state. His visit is scheduled from 21 to 24 July. This information was given to reporters by Foreign Minister Marcial Tamayo.

FUNERAL OF FORMER PRESIDENT TORRES HELD 1 JUNE

PY021718 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 2 Jun 83

[Excerpts] Many people attended the burial of former President Juan Jose Torres Gonzalez on Wednesday afternoon. Many personalities who headed the funeral procession made statements, including the vice president of the republic.

[Begin Paz Zamora recording] Now that we are living in a democracy, all the Bolivian people can freely pay homage to this man, who will undoubtedly be remembered as one of those Bolivian presidents who safeguarded the interests of the people. [end recording]

Army Commander in Chief Simon Sejas Tordoya also participated in General Torres' burial. Here are his statements: [Begin Sejas recording] General Juan Jose Torres is a symbol of unity for the military men. Those of us who are in charge of conducting the Army are trying to regain the people's confidence in us. [end recording]

There were persistent reports in the past few days about destabilization of the democratic process. General Sejas said that those reports could only be caused by two factors. In the first place, disinformation or lack of information might, in a somewhat unclear situation, cause a number of rumors to be passed on from person to person in the usual way.

[Begin Sejas recording] As far as the Army is concerned the rumors are unfounded, because we are engaged in our specific duties. We have told the people that the Armed Forces, particularly the Army, are engaged in professional training and trying to regain the people's confidence in us. [end recording]

The Army commander in chief emphasized that the Army is trying to regain the people's confidence. As for the improvement of the morale of the Armed Forces, Simon Sejas said: [Begin Sejas recording] The improvement of morale is a continuous undertaking. [end recording]

FOREIGN MINISTER ON LIBYANS; LEAVES FOR BELGRADE

PY030318 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 0200 GMT 3 Jun 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro has declined to comment on the arrival of a Libyan mission to Brazil, a mission which in addition to negotiating the release of the airplanes held in Manaus and Recife is reportedly also going to resume trade relations between the two countries.

Tonight at the Brasilia International Airport upon boarding the airplane for Belgrade, the foreing minister told journalists that he had nothing to say on this matter. He only made a comment on the Belgrade conference, emphasizing the importance of this meeting considering the current world economic situation and the Third World's hope of finding prospects for dialogue during the conference.

ARMED FORCE CHIEF CONFIRMS AID TO SURINAME

PY030217 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 2 Jun 83 p 5

[Text] Yesterday in Rio de Janeiro, Brigadier Waldir Vasconcelos, chief of staff of the Armed Forces, disclosed that Brazil's military and economic aid to Suriname had already been agreed on. In addition to the appointment, through a presidential decree, of a military attache in Paramaribo, the cooperation program provides for the training of personnel in Brazilian military centers as well as the establishment of the National Air Mail (CAN) service between the two countries. According to Brigadier Vasconcelos, Surinamese officers will be sent to the military colleges of the Brazilian Navy, Army, and Air Force where they will take specialization courses.

Waldir Vasconcelos also pointed out that what is sought is to grant Suriname military aid within the cooperation program between the two countries, "but that to interpret that as if Brazil were arming Suriname would be an exaggeration."

According to other officers yesterday, this rapprochement involves geopolitical aspects of national interest insofar as it prevents a neighboring country from becoming involved in the Central American problem and in Cuban interests. According to the same sources, the withdrawal of the United States and the Netherlands could lead Paramaribo to fall under Cuban influence; hence General Venturini's recent mission -- which has resulted in the establishment of this cooperation agreement between the two countries -- was justified.

Suriname stopped receiving military aid from the Netherlands and was subject to even greater isolation after Washington distanced itself from the current Surinamese military regime. This, in turn, contributed to the rapprochement with Brazil.

Yesterday in Sao Paulo, Captain Ivan Graanoogost, chief of staff of the Surinamese Army, confirmed the acquisition of Urutu and Cascavel armored cars from Engesa [Specialized Engineers, Inc.] as part of a $50 million purchase of arms, which also includes equipment for personal use such as rifles, uniforms, bayonets, and ammunition produced by Imbel [Ordnance Industry].

The Surinamese officer, who visited the military industrial complex in Sao Jose dos Campos on Tuesday with his entourage, refused to grant an interview in Sao Paulo to the journalists accredited to the 2d Army where he met with General Sergio de Ary Pires in the morning.

In the afternoon the delegation traveled to the air base in Brasilia where Itamaraty took measures to prevent the Surinamese visitor from being approached by the media and kept his agenda secret. The surinamese Embassy stated that Graanoogost's visit was of a strictly military nature; so it had no information to issue on the results of the contacts he had in Brazil. Graanoogost leaves for Paramaribo at 1030 today.

POLICE BREAK WORKERS' BLOCKADE ON AMAZON HIGHWAY

PY030023 Paris AFP in Spanish 0353 GMT 2 Jun 83

[Text] Belem, Brazil, 1 Jun (AFP) -- Today with the aid of tear gas, the military police managed to lift the 10-day blockade on the trans-Amazon highway staged by 400 workers of a sugar mill on strike to demand payment of their salaries. On 22 May, the workers, who have not been paid for 4 months, interrupted the traffic 92 km from Altamira City, Para State in the Brazilian Amazon area.

After negotiations to allow the flow of vehicles failed this afternoon, some 70 members of the military police of Para State intervened strongly to disperse the striking workers who were blocking the highway.

During the operation to lift the blockade, Altamira Bishop Erwin Kreutler and a union leader were arrested but were release quickly at the demand of the strikers. Para State Governor Jader Barbalho, of the opposition Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Pary (PMDB) promised the strikers that he would meet with the sugar plant authorities to see that they get paid.

According to official reports issued in the capital of Para State, the free flow of traffic along the highway has been reestablished.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADORS TO SURINAME, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC -- Brasilia -- Luiz Felipe Lampreia has been designated Brazilian ambassador to Suriname. He will replace Ambassador Nestor Santos Lima, who has been designated ambassador to the Dominican Republic. [Summary] [Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 24 May 83 p 8 PY]

TRADE AGREEMENT WITH MEXICO -- At the end of 2 days of meetings, Brazilian authorities and members of an official Mexican delegation agreed to increase trade between the two countries to a total worth $1.7 billion. The agreement establishes that Brazil will supply Mexico with railraod equipment, machinery for the agriculture sector, and foodstuffs in exchange for Mexican petroleum. [Summary] [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 25 May 83 p 17 PY]

MENINGITIS DEATHS REPORTED -- Despite the health authorities denial about an outbreak of meningitis, it has been stated that four fatal cases were registered in Feira de Santana, some 108 km from Salvador. [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 25 May 83 p 6 PY]

PRESIDENT PINOCHET LASHES OUT AGAINST 'TRAITORS'

PY021820 Paris AFP in Spanish 2042 GMT 1 Jun 83

[Excerpt] Concepcion, Chile, 1 Jun (AFP) -- President Augusto Pinochet said here today that the economic crisis that Chile is experiencing has allowed us to unmask the traitors who called themselves supporters of the military regime. Upon his arrival in Concepcion, located 525 km south of Santiago, Pinochet said that the country is recovering and we are achieving progress, but this crisis has allowed us to unmask those who were with us but who were traitors.

The Chilean president did not explain at whom his statement was aimed, but it was apparently addressed to private businessmen and former representatives of the political rightist sector, who in the last few months have joined the social moderates and leftists who are asking for the restoration of democracy.

GOVERNMENT VIEWS PETITIONS OF CHILEANS IN EXILE

PY021825 Paris AFP in Spanish 2256 GMT 1 Jun 83

[Excerpts] Santiago, 1 Jun (AFP) -- Justice Minister Jaime del Valle reported today that the Chilean military government is analyzing the petitions submitted by 400 Chileans living in exile who wish to return to the country under an official program for their return, initiated 5 months ago. Once these cases have been examined, the authorities will determine the situation of the remaining Chileans living in exile who have not submitted any petitions. The minister estimated that they number 10,000.

According to reports issued by the Catholic Church and the Chilean Human Rights Commission, over 70,000 Chileans live in exile in Latin America, Europe, the United States, and socialist countries.

VICARIATE OF SOLIDARITY REPORTS ARREST FIGURES

PY020354 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 27 May 83 p C 7

[Text] According to the last Vicariate of Solidarity monthly report, there were a total of 376 arrests during March throughout the country. Of these, 292 were in Santiago, 84 were in the provinces. The report notes that 302 of these arrests were made during mass demonstrations and 74 involved individual actions.

Of 376 persons who were arrested in March, 12 were placed at the disposal of the courts and of these one was charged with terrorist crimes.

As for the number of arrests during the first 3 months of the year in Santiago, the Vicariate of Solidarity reports 553, a considerably higher number than during the same period in 1981 and 1982; 229 and 415, respectively.

As for court petitions of illegal arrests, the report notes that 2 were submitted to the courts in March; and since the beginning of the year, a total of 17 have been submitted to the courts.

Regarding "political prisoners," the report notes that there are 131 throughout the country; and of this total, 104 are being tried by the courts and 27 have already been sentenced.

BETANCUR SUGGESTS ADDING CUBA TO CONTADORA TALKS

PA021227 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Jun 83

[Text] Bogota -- Colombian President Belisario Betancur and Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez agreed today that Cuba should participate in the dialogues currently underway to achieve peace in Central America. President Betancur, who explained that he does not share the Cuban Government's ideology, said that Cuba should be allowed to participate in the efforts undertaken by the Contadora Group.

For his part, Spanish Prime Minister Gonzalez agreed with the Colombian president's view, noting that all voices are welcome if they can contribute to the reestablishment of peace in the strife-torn area.

LLOREDA ON CLIMATE FOR NEW C.A. PEACE TALKS

PA021746 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 1 Jun 83 p 6A

[By special correspondent Jose Ramon Nunez]

[Excerpts] Cartagena, 31 -- Seventeen Latin American foreign ministers and 10 special representatives from an equal number of countries in the area will meet in Cartagena beginning tomorrow under a "no secrets" plan aimed at backing up the Contadora group's peacekeeping efforts in Central America. Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo said that no agenda has been purposefully set for the meeting, which followed a crucial one held until the night before last between the contadora Group and the foreign ministers of the five strife-torn Central American countries.

Lloreda outlined the breakthroughs toward peace in the strife-torn region. After revealing "substantial advances" in the peacekeeping efforts of Colombia, Mexico, Venezuela, and Panama, he argued that "up to now Contadora has been the only deterrent to a general conflagration in Central America." Lloreda Caicedo noted, however, that "Contadora is not the last remaining shot" in this drive toward the solution of the serious conflict in the region.

Start Toward Agreement

The minister said that the meeting that closed on Monday night in Panama yielded positive results and that the freeze among the five Central American countries, which have been on the brink of war, was thawed.

According to Lloreda, the beginning of "an identification among them" in regard to the thorny topics under review was evident. He said that the cordial dialogue between Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto and Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica, who enlightened their colleagues on their governments' points of view, was significant.

"This was a very transcendental diplomatic effort and it can be said that Contadora is the only instrument that is operating against the risks of war," Lloreda Caicedo said. "This peace effort continues. Its success hinges on the will of the countries which are directly involved because we are mere good-will mediators."

He attached much importance to the presence in Cartagena of the same parties to the dialogue in Panama and to the participation of Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca in the informal talks that have opened here.

There are plans to make the dialogue even more productive through the incorporation of Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, "who has much influence in Europe."

No Useless Adjectives

Lloreda anticipated that any final delaration that is issued will be the result of a candid discussion and will have no useless periods, commas, or adjectives. "We want everything to the spontaneous and uncharacteristic of a formal meeting of foreign ministers," the Colombian minister said. He stressed that the intention is to complement the effort toward the consolidation of peace in Central America.

"Actually, this is not very mysterious," he noted, and ruled out any intention of inventing magic formulas to step up the peacekeeping process. "We are on the way after having at least reached agreement in Panama on the mechanisms for the next talks."

The new meeting between the Contadora Group and the five Central American foreign ministers has been scheduled for 14 June for the purpose of submitting recommendations to the third joint meeting, which will be held at an appropriate time. He admitted that every gesture and every word had to be virtually gauged in the strained atmosphere of the latest talks but said that everybody left the talks more relaxed.

'CARTAGENA ACT' ISSUED; STRESSES ECONOMY

PA021924 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 0017 GMT 2 Jun 83

[Cartagena Act, "whereby 28 hemispheric countries join in the celebration of the 450th anniversary of Cartagena de Indias and in the upcoming commemoration of the bicentennial of Liberator Simon Bolivar's birth," issued in Cartagena, Colombia, on 1 June -- read by unidentified speaker]

[Text] George Price, premier and foreign minister of Belize; Fernando Schwalb Lopez Aldana, first vice president, president of the Council of Ministers, and foreign minister of Peru; Walter Guevara Arze, former president of Bolivia; Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo of Colombia; Ekhart Peters [name indistinct] of Costa Rica; Isidoro Malmierca Peoli of Cuba; Miguel Schweitzer Walters of Chile; Luis Valencia Rodriguez of Ecuador; Fidel Chavez Mena of El Salvador; Eduardo Castillo Arriola of Guatemala; Jean Robert Estime of Haiti; Edgardo Paz Barnica of Honduras; Neville Gallimore of Jamaica; Bernardo Sepulveda Amor of Mexico; Miguel D'Escoto Brockman of Nicaragua; Juan Jose Amado III of Panama; Alberto Nogues of Paraguay; Jose Augusto Vega Imbert of the Dominican Republic; and Jose Alberto Zambrano Velasco of Venezuela; Lionel Craig, minister of parliamentary affairs of Barbados; Ambassador Alberto Dumont, under secretary of foreign relations of Argentina; Joao Clemente Baena Soares, secretary general of foreign affairs of Brazil; Herbert Arbuet, deputy foreign minister of Uruguay; and representatives G. Douglas Valentine, ambassador of Canada; Daniel J. Terra, U.S. ambassador for cultural affairs; (James Ellinos), ambassador of Grenada; Rudolph Collins, ambassador of Guyana; and (Rene Henri) [name indistinct], ambassador of Suriname; have met in Cartagena de Indias to pay a tribute of admiration to the historic city that so decisively contributed to the emancipation of the American peoples, and to honor Liberator Simon Bolivar, visionary statesman and brave leader of freedom, on the occassion of the upcoming bicentennial of his birth.

The foreign ministers stressed that in Simon Bolivar's political views, independence and reciprocal respect among nations are the pillars on which world peace rests. They also recalled that the germ of some of the basic principles of modern international law can be found in Bolivar's ideas.

They stated that peace and development are the major aspirations of the peoples at the current historic moment. In view of this, they agreed that even under the most adverse circumstances, one must resort to dialogue to overcome the antagonisms among states and to remove the threat of war.

They expressed their determination to carry out the necessary efforts so that the legal principles and procedures for peacefully solving controversies can prevail in the relations among the American countries.

In reviewing the currently grave world economic situation, they (?again) recalled the Bolivarian ideology according to which only harmony among the American peoples will make it possible to achieve progress, peace, and justice in economic relations.

They confirmed how the developing countries have suffered the most adverse consequences due to the current economic crisis in such a way that their progress has come to a standstill and in many cases has slipped back. Worrisome signs of recession and a delicate situation marked by indebtedness, with its well-known negative political and social consequences, have emerged, especially on the continent. In view of this, they called for a fluid and fruitful North-South dialogue to be established. That dialogue should be aimed at establishing renewed and broader continental economic cooperation.

They expressed their hope that, on the basis of their own prospects for recovery, the developed countries will provide new incentives to international economic understanding, cooperation, and the revitalization of the developing economies. In this context, the ministerial declaration of Cartagena, adopted on 26 February 1983, becomes particularly important.

They reiterated the need to promote the Latin American integration processes and referred to the urgent need for institutions like the Andean Pact, the Latin American Integration Association, the Caricom and the CACM, among others, to be revitalized. (?This would include) meeting the economic challenges posed by the current international situation.

The foreign ministers paid tribute to Cartagena de Indias, heroic city where, for 450 years, (?the most noteworthy) [word indistinct] of Latin American history have been fulfilled, motivated by the love of freedom.

They also paid tribute to Liberator Simon Bolivar and adopted as their own the phrase set forth in the Letter of Jamaica, which states: My greatest wish is to see the largest nation in the world formed in America, not so much due to its extension and wealth, as to its freedom and its (?God).

HAVANA REPORTS START OF CARTAGENA CELEBRATION

PA021557 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 1 Jun 83

[Text] The official celebration to commemorate the 450th anniversary of Cartagena have begun with the ringing of bells and salvos of artillery. Colombian President Belisario Betancur, Spanish Chief of Government Felipe Gonzalez, and Prince Felipe arrived in Cartagena in the morning to participate in the ceremonies.

Prince Felipe is attending the events on behalf of King Juan Carlos. Foreign ministers of 17 Latin American countries and other guests are also staying in the bedecked city.

During a luncheon in honor of Gonzalez, Betancur proposed a political project to promote peace, liberty, and development for Latin America and the Caribbean. Meanwhile, Gonzalez urged the United States to change its policy toward Central America and the rest of Latin America and to establish relations based on understanding and solidarity.

Highlights Cartagena Act

PA021516 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Jun 83

[Text] The foreign ministers of 17 Latin American countries, meeting in Cartagena on the occasion of the 450th anniversary of this Colombian city, stressed the need to hold dialogues in order to resolve the conflicts among nations and to remove the threat of war. They also pointed out that independence and mutual respect among the nations are the foundations of world peace.

In a document called the Cartagena Act, which was also signed by Colombian President Belisario Betancur and Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, the foreign ministers recalled that in the ideas of Liberator Simon Bolivar contain the germ of some of the basic principles of modern international law.

The statement stresses that peace and development are the peoples' fundamental aspirations at the current historic moment, and emphasizes that only unity solidarity, and the integration of the American peoples will make progress, peace, and justice in economic ties possible.

After mentioning the grave consequences of the economic crisis in the capitalist world, a crisis which affects the developing countries, the Cartagena Act calls for a North-South dialogue which would lead to establishing a renewed and broader continental economic cooperation.

Finally, the foreign ministers pay homage to Cartagena, a city in which many memorable events in the Latin American peoples' struggle for independence from Spanish colonialism have occurred.

Cites Betancur Speech

PA022119 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 2 Jun 83

[Text] Colombian President Belisario Betancur has said that peace in Central America and the Caribbean is an essential concern and an unyielding desire of the Latin American countries. The Colombian president spoke before representatives of 28 Latin American countries and Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez at a ceremony honoring the 450th anniversary of the Colombian city of Cartagena.

The Colombian president stressed that the Caribbean and Central American people urgently seek to overcome underdevelopment, poverty, and unemployment. He referred to the clash with powerful established interests and emphasized that attempts are made to present that situation as an artificial ideological polarization.

Belisario Betancur stressed that Spain can play an invaluable role in the search for a negotiated and peaceful solution to the Central American crisis. He indicated that peace can only be consolidated and strengthened with justice and fairness in international relations.

The Colombian president said that Latin American's reunion with Spain will, fortunately, not be wasted. He then read some verses by Cuban national poet Nicolas Guillen, whom, he said, is a Caribbean if there ever was one.

CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER ON U.S. 'INTERFERENCE'

PA021458 Paris AFP in Spanish 2208 GMT 1 Jun 83

[Text] Cartagena, Colombia, 1 Jun (AFP) -- Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca has said that "there are Cubans such as teachers and doctors in Nicaragua" as part of the cooperation agreements that his country has with several Central American countries. Malmierca, who is in Cartagena to participate in the events celebrating the 450th anniversary of this Colombia city on the Caribbean, made the statement to clear up reports about the presence of "Cuban military advisers" in the zone.

What has Cuba contributed to the Central American process?, he as asked.

"We support the efforts of the Contadora group (Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela). We hope they can contribute to normalizing the situation in the region."

There is talk about Cuban intervention in Honduras and El Salvador. Is this true?

"We have issued an appropriate reply to those charges several times. There are Cubans, such as teachers and doctors in Nicaragua. They are involved in cooperation agreements between Cuba and Nicaragua and between Cuba and other countries. These are aspects that have a bilateral character."

If, as a negotiation factor, the United States agrees to withdraw its military advisers from El Salvador, would Cuba do the same?

"I am unaware that there is such a proposal. We believe that not only we but any person who makes a real analysis of the situation will understand that besides this cause for the rebelliousness of the peoples, the situation has been provoked by the U.S. interference and the United States has to stop that intervention."

"We are not absent. We are part of the peoples of this region, but we have said many times that if the United States were really willing to seek the solution of the Central American situation and if it showed that desire -- that so far does not exist -- to really seek the solution of the Central American situation, we would be willing to analyze any step that might contribute to this."

"Nevertheless, the United States, far from seeking that desire about which I spoke, is carrying out an even more serious and dangerous interference."

D'ESCOTO ACCUSES U.S. OF 'MILITARY METHODS'

PA021531 Paris AFP in Spanish 2133 GMT 31 May 83

[Text] Cartagena, Colombia, 31 May (AFP) -- Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto today accused Honduras of systematically refusing to go to the negotiations table to find a bilateral solution to their differences.

D'Escoto arrived in Cartagena today. Tomorrow, together with 14 other Latin American counterparts, Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, and the Spanish king's son Prince Felipe of Asturias, will attend the ceremonies commemorating this city's 450th anniversary.

Furthermore, the Nicaraguan foreign minister reaffirmed his government's determination to continue with the dialogue in order to find a peaceful solution to the Central American crisis. He also accused the United States of using military methods.

"U.S. insolence has gone as far as using exclusively military methods in Central America," D'Escoto said.

He then recalled that President Ronald Reagan has told the press that "the United States sponsors covert actions against Nicaragua, because the laws forbid covert actions [sentence as received].

D'Escoto also said that the Contadora Group (Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela) efforts to achieve peace in Central America "are the greatest Latin American effort, even though the United States does not think so."

BRIEFS

BANANA EXPORT PROSPECTS -- The Colombian Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock has announced that Colombia is in a position to export 68 million boxes of bananas this year, thus allowing Colombia to become the foremost world banana exporter. Colombian deputy Agriculture Minister Cecilia Lopez de Rodriguez made the announcement after returning from Panama where she attended a meeting of ministers of important banana-producing countries. [Excerpt] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 25 May 83 p 4-A PA]

PEREZ, SALINAS TO SIGN COOPERATION AGREEMENT

FL012220 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2106 GMT 1 Jun 83

[Text] Humberto Perez, minister president of Cuba's Central Planning Board, has held talks in Mexico City based on the mutually-declared willingness to achieve greater integration and cooperation among underdeveloped countries. Humberto Perez, who is in Mexico to review the status of the bilateral agreement on planning, met with the secretaries of finance and public credit; of energy, mines, and parastate industry; and of commerce and industry of Mexico. During their meetings, they agreed to begin an immediate exchange of information on branches of state enterprises that may complement one another, such as the sugar industry. They also analyzed the continuation and expansion of Cuban export products other than traditional exports such as sugar, rum, and tobacco.

Humberto Perez and Carlos Salinas de Gortari, Mexican secretary of programming and budget, will sign a cooperation agreement between the two countries today. The new steps in the area of Mexican-Cuban economic cooperation are based on the recommendations made by President Miguel de la Madrid during a recent meeting with the Cuban minister president. Press releases indicated that Mexican officials will be coming to Cuba soon to confirm all the cooperation agreements. The releases also stressed the conviction that the excellent relations between the two countries would allow for a major expansion of future trade relations.

U.S. SEEN ADOPTING 'TOUGHER' POLICY ON C.A.

FL022023 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1550 GMT 2 Jun 83

[Article by Ezequiel Barriga Chavez: "The First Steps. Central America"]

[Text] Mexico, 2 Jun (NOTIMEX) -- The Central American conflict seems to have become increasingly polarized as a result of recent positions adopted by the countries involved and the fact that the prospects stemming from these new positions are very similar to the ones that have prevailed from the beginning. Nevertheless, some changes in Ronald Reagan's team, such as the replacement of Thomas Enders with Langhorne Motley as assistant secretary for inter-American affairs, lead to the belief that a more polished U.S. policy on Latin America is in the making.

Although Enders advocated intervention in Central America, his having been a key man in former U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig's team made him appear as a minor obstacle to formulating a policy which would be more in keeping with Reagan's position. Thus, Secretary Shultz' announcement that the United States will soon set up a military base in Honduras to train Salvadoran troops seems to be the first step toward a tougher U.S. policy on the Central American conflict. These measures are proof of direct U.S. involvement in the problem and of the U.S. intention to internationalize the conflict by dragging El Salvador and Nicaragua's neighbors into it.

Honduras, and to a lesser extent Costa Rica, are thus becoming the stepping stones for conducting military aggression against the Salvadoran guerrillas and the Sandinists. By openly backing the counterrevolution, the rulers of these countries are not only offering military support, but are also relinquishing their national sovereignty.

The fact that Nicaragua is being harassed by counterrevolutionary aggressors coming from Honduras (over the northern border) and from Costa Rica (over the southern border) and the upcoming arrival of 100 U.S. military advisers in Honduras to train Salvadoran troops show that the Central American conflict has become completely internationalized and thus the peace efforts by the Contadora Group and European social-democratic parties are becoming increasingly difficult.

The aggressors are not taking into account the fact that the conflict could be solved through the adoption of the political and social measures proposed by Mexico, Venezuela, Panama, and Colombia and through the economic support offered to Nicaragua by European countries, namely the Netherlands and Germany.

Thus peace can now be brought to Central America either through aggression and destruction or through reason and peaceful coexistence. Most countries, including Mexico, have endorsed the latter alternative.

BRIEFS

MALARIA STATISTICS -- Merida -- According to statistics from the Health and Assistance Secretariat, malaria is spreading quickly through states in the country's southeast. These statistics disclosed that in 1982 there were 33,831 cases of malaria in six southeastern states. Oaxaca was the most affected, with 14,463 cases. [Summary] [Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 28 May 83 p 6 PA]

DE LA ESPRIELLA VIEWS REGIONAL PEACE EFFORTS

PA021717 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 1 Jun 83

[Excerpts] During his tour of public works projects, President Ricardo de la Espriella was interviewed by Televisora Nacional on the Central American problems and other topics of interest. Here is the interview:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Mr President, a question on Central America. At the same time the Contadora Group is making efforts for peace, it has been announced in Washington that the U.S. Government has increased its actions in what observers describe as a big stick policy. Does this obstruct the achievement of real peace?'

[De la Espriella] These are speculative observations. I would not say that they have stated they are now going to use the big stick.

[Unidentified reporter] Excuse me, Mr President, but what about the fact that they are going to send 100 more advisers to El Salvador?

[De la Espriella] I understand that, at the request of those governments, they have sent 100 advisers to El Salvador and another group to Honduras. I definitely do not think that war is the way to find paths of understanding. In my opinion, war does not lead to anything; it is a vicious circle. You win battles and wars and then you have to sit down to negotiate peace and see what concessions you will make. I think it better to negotiate peace before a war begins. That is my opinion and that is why I have always said that Contadora is a hope. It is definitely subordinate to the big powers, to the strength of the big powers. I believe it would be in the best interests of humankind if peace were found, not only in this region but all over the world. However, we human beings have entered into a phase of misunderstanding where selfishenss and private interests prevail, without caring about the living conditions or the lives of our brothers. It is important for us to appeal to the good sense of humankind so that we may sit down to discuss the problems. It is important for us to think about what is advisable for our countries rather than for the personal interest of a few. [end recording]

MOVEMENT FORMED TO PROMOTE PAREDES' CANDIDACY

PA020228 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 30 May 83 p 11

[Statement issued by the newly formed Independent Paredist Movement in Colon, Panama, on 22 May 1983]

[Text] We, being adult Panamanians with no current political commitments who are deeply concerned over the serious political and socioeconomic situation currently being faced by the nation, and who are faced with the prospect of electing "our leaders" in 1984, have seriously scrutinized the possible presidential candidates and have arrived at the following conclusion:

1. The situation with which we are currently afflicted is worldwide and our underdeveloped status prevents us from overcoming it.

2. Our country is a seller of services by nature, and these services have declined because of the economic recession.

3. The recession has hit the Colon Free Zone hard, further increasing unemployment within our province.

4. This entire grave and complex situation adds to the explosive situation that is shaking Central America and that threatens to spread through the Central American Isthmus and finally to Panama.

5. To escape from this very grave situation the country must choose a candidate with special leadership qualities for the next elections.

6. Therefore, believe that the person who has demonstrated that he is a leader who understands world and national problems is General RUBEN DARIO PAREDES, because of his wise patriotism; his humane qualities; his humble background which brings him closer to the masses; and his charismatic figure, which promotes national unity. Because of all of this, we resolve:

A. To establish an organization that will welcome all who wish to support Gen Paredes' candidacy, without distinctions of any kind.

B. This organization will henceforth be known as the Independent Paredist Movement [Movimiento Paredista Independiente], and

C. We pledge to carry out an intensive campaign that will take Gen Ruben Dario Paredes to the presidency.

Issued in the city of Colon on 22 May 1983 during a plenary session of the Independent Paredist Movement.

COLUMNIST SAYS U.S. FAVORS PAREDES' CANDIDACY

PA012137 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 31 May 83 p 8-A

["Let the People Judge" column by Ricardo Lince: "An Answer to a Snooper"]

[Text] Somebody asked me: What's the sense in a trip to Washington by General Ruben Dario Paredes for discussion of military matters involved in the defense of the Panama Canal when he has announced that he will step down from the National Guard command on 12 August?

I responded: Paredes has completed one of his tasks and he is now preparing to face another. It is true that his trip, following his resignation as National Guard commander, does not seem to make sense, in that his military duties will end. However, it can be explained, because Pentagon hawks see him as the first potential candidate for the next presidency of the republic and they are already tacitly telling the Panamanian people through this invitation that Paredes' political bid has the Pentagon's support.

This is true for a variety of reasons. First, the United States need a strong ruler in Panama, one who has not only the support of the country's voters but the qualities and attitudes necessary for handling real machinery of power, so that the next government can continue to guarantee Panama's economic and social stability and, above all, peace for the canal. The international banks (make this read financial centers) also want these conditions to prevail.

The U.S. interests in Panama must, for the sake of U.S. security, be maintained in Panama, according to top official U.S. spokesmen, and a ruler with a strong political and military personality is a deterrent to any kind of destabilization. In his negotiations, Paredes is always a nationalist. But as a partner, he is the best possible ally when it comes to promoting a mutual and fruitful friendship and a businesslike understanding between Panama and the United States.

In addition, Paredes learned from Torrijos. He has the stamina and the caliber to understand the historical role he must play in regional conflicts and struggles to keep them under the umbrella of a canal-oriented peace and an ironclad neutrality, the best defense in these times of tremendous agitation. But the Panamanian people will learn the details of all of this when General Paredes returns from Washington.

COLUMNIST NOTES CHARGE AGAINST PRESIDENT

PA012319 Panama City YA in Spanish 28 May 83 p 14

["Public Gathering" column by Donatilo Ballesteros: "Careful, Ricardo de la Espriella"]

[Text] It is with grave concern that I have listened to and read the news about the payment of $20,000 to a go-between for a member of the Banking Commission, who is working on reopening the Banco de Ultramar, which was intervened by the Banking Commission. Another Ricardo, Ricardo Lasso Guevara, who turned down the president's offer to appoint him attorney general about a year ago, has put the president in a difficult spot in the eyes of the country's citizens by claiming that he personally delivered the president a copy of the check by which the payment was made.

It is inexplicable that these two men, who trust each other and whose friendship dates back to the days when they were students at the National Institute, have taken positions that are so contradictory that if the stand taken by one is proved true the other would be morally destroyed in the eyes of the country's sensible, serious and honest public.

If it is proven that a photostatic copy of the check was indeed delivered to the president, as Dr Ricardo Lasso Guevara has claimed, De la Espriella's resignation would be imminent. If it is not proven, my colleague's professional and public status would be so affected that a prudent retirement would be advisable. This is how the country's honest men must act, particularly those who deem themselves a part of our nation's moral reserves.

To speculate on statements like those that have led to the serious charge made about the president amounts to compromising the fatherland's dignity, if the allegations made in such statements cannot be proven. Those of us who know these two persons to be studious, hard-working and capable individuals, who have been worthy of full confidence so far, refuse to believe that they could have become the protagonists in so sad an episode, whose domestic and foreign repercussions in the area of finance and in terms of the confidence placed in our country's authorities can be so severe.

Some time will elapse before the attorney general's office can gather the facts necessary for an adequate evaluation. However, from now on, the damage caused by the mutual accusations is imminent and its consequences will emerge soon. Be very careful, Ricardo de la Espriella, because we trust you as president.

CHARGES AGAINST NATIONAL BANK TO BE PROTESTED

PA021524 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 1 Jun 83

[Excerpts] Rafael Arosemena, general manager of the Panama National Bank, has denied the report published in NEWSWEEK magazine which accused Panama of depositing laundered money in the New York Federal Reserve.

[Begin Arosemena recording] Regarding NEWSWEEK, it is a very speculative and groundless report. At no time has the National Bank laundered money in its operations, as the periodical stated.

As a national bank we are exclusively dedicated to financial operations in Panama and through our agency in New York. We do not know if the money is laundered because it is practically impossible, if not impossible, to detect through the bills if the money is laundered. Other financial centers such as Miami and New York have also been mentioned and investigated, but those are internal matters of the U.S. Government. However, as far as the National Bank is concerned, I can tell you emphatically that we have nothing to do with that kind of business and that we are very angry about the way this report was internationally disseminated, thus affecting not only the image of the Panama National Bank but also the image of the Republic of Panama, because the National Bank is the financial image of the Panamanian nation. [end recording]

Asked about the reply obtained from the diplomatic authorities who will use their channels to protest to the U.S. Government, Arosemena said:

[Begin recording] Last night Deputy Foreign Minister Cabrera said that a protest note in this regard was being presented to the U.S. Embassy in Panama City. This confirms that this is not only a problem of the National Bank but also of the Panamanian Government. Therefore, the Panamanian Foreign Ministry is filing a formal protest with the U.S. Embassy so that it can transmit that protest to the U.S. Government in Washington to see how this issue can be definitely solved and clarified. [end recording]

'Campaign of Lies' Condemned

PA022023 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 1 Jun 83 p 4

[Editorial: "Infamous Campaign"]

[Text] Some elements in our country have been echoing the campaign of lies against Panama. This campaign was started by certain U.S. sectors, especially those "committees" that call themselves independent, but whose leadership and purposes are known to all.

A U.S. magazine, well-known for its aggressive attitude toward Latin American nations in defending the Potomac's imperial rights, has widely publicized such reports. It is clear that its intention has been to discredit the Panama National Bank by implying that the bank is involved in transactions to transfer money "that has been obtained from drug trafficking in the United States."

The Panama National Bank's management has reacted with justified indignation and has strongly protested the use of defamatory statements to pressure the Panamanian Government.

We know that our government is under strong pressure to accept a new canal agreement that would permit "U.S. military bases to remain in the canal area beyond the year 2000." We also know that Panama is being pressured to allow the School of the Americas at Fort Gulick to continue operating after 1 October 1984, when it is scheduled to revert to Panama, according to the Panama Canal Torrijos-Carter Treaties.

The United States is not happy with Panama's active participation in the Contadora Group, since Panama has a good reputation in international politics, and thus has become a strong advocate of a negotiated peace in Central America. All these factors -- the Panamanian Government nationalist, Bolivarian, and Americanist stand -- irritate some U.S. sectors, who the release their anger on institutions such as the Nacional Bank of Panama, with the abject intention of destabilizing not only the official Panamanian bank, but the banking center which operates in our country as well.

Rafael Arosemena, Panama National Bank's manager, has strongly protested before the international financial world the infamous lies published by the instigating agents in the northern country. We Panamanians hope that the Panamanian Government -- at its highest levels -- will protest this to the U.S. State Department with the diligence that the circumstances demand.

Activities of this nature, such misinformation disseminated by U.S. agencies, do not help in maintaining good relations between the two countries.

EL SALVADOR

ALVARO MAGANA TO PAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO U.S.

PA030058 Paris AFP in Spanish 0014 GMT 3 Jun 83

[Text] San Salvador, 2 Jun (AFP) -- Presidential sources revealed today that Salvadoran President Alvaro Magana will travel to the United States next week on an official visit.

The sources did not reveal what Magana's mission would be, but said that the president will go to the Constituent Assembly to request authorization to leave the country. The president has permanent authorization to leave at any time and to travel to any of the region's countries.

COLONEL BLANDON ON ARMY ACTION AT GUAZAPA

PA022154 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Jun 83

[Interview with Colonel Adolfo Blandon, commander of the Salvadoran Army's 1st Infantry Brigade, by unidentified reporter; no place or date given -- recorded]

[Excerpt] [Question] Speaking of important matters involving our national reality, I would like to know the situation in terms of the operations that the 1st Brigade and the national [words indistinct] have developed at Guazapa Hill. What are the latest details , Colonel?

[Blandon] Well, the summary you ask me for involves the vital zones in the Guazapa area, which covers an area of some 1,500 square km. We have maintained a constant offensive since 19 February and I think that journalists and photographers are tactically and strategically important in this. We permanently maintain units in the Guazapa area. Only 2 nights ago we clashed with and did substantial harm to the subversives who were trying to recover areas that, as I said at the outset, are of vital importance, such as Palo Grande. They tried to take that area, but the reinforcement troops' morale is very high and the results were in our favor. We killed about six of the subversives who tried to recover that area on the northeastern slope of Guazapa.

[Question] Colonel, can you tell us any results of the alterations or the changes that have been made since 19 February?

[Blandon] Unfortunately, there has been too much publicity; in the last 15 days we have inflicted some 65 casualties on the terrorists, while suffering only 3 ourselves. However, what is most important to me is that we continue to control the area, which is important for the maintenance of peace, not only in the cities of [passage indistinct]. What is most important for us is that we maintain permanent peace in a (?single) area. God willing, I hope to intensify efforts in the next few days to completely annihilate the armed subversives in that area.

[Question] Colonel, we would also like to know if the vigilance in that area will be permanent and if we will keep the troops there that have been participating in the operation so far; will we vigilantly pursue the objective, as you say, of providing security to all of the inhabitants and not just to those in the areas near to Guazapa Hill?

[Blandon] We have decided to maintain permanent vigilance and constant control of the area because, as I said, this is very important economically, socially, and militarily. We feel, therefore, that we should maintain permanent vigilance there, which is what we have been doing recently.

[Question] One last question, Colonel. We would like your opinion of the national situation and of the activities that have recently been announced, as well as of the guerrillas. Your opinion?

[Blandon] I think that the situation, to make a general statement, is undoubtedly not [words indistinct] and is quite complicated. However, allow me to say something that is important, which I want to send as a message to all Salvadorans. The people should be aware that our country belongs to all of us and not simply to the armed forces, and that we need to integrate all the country's sectors [15-second break in transmission] if we are to cut down the length of this conflict.

45 REBELS REPORTED KILLED AT CACAGUATIQUE

PA021834 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 2230 GMT 31 May 83

[By Raul Beltran]

[Excerpt] We have been able to confirm from military sources consulted in this provincial capital east of San Salvador that for the second consecutive day serious clashes have continued on the slopes of the Cacaguatique Volcano. Guerrilla forces attacked the military installations located at the top of Cerro Cacaguatique last Monday.

According to the first details obtained from official sources here in San Francisco Gotera, the fate of approximately 75 soldiers from the command garrison is unknown. The soldiers were charged with the vigilance and care of the military communications post on the top of the Cacaguatique Volcano.

Meanwhile, other military troops are repelling the rebels who attacked that small area, located in the vicinity of Ciudad Barrios and Osicala. Artillery duels took place all morning and part of this afternoon, and could be heard from San Francisco Gotera itself. The first confirmed details from military sources in San Francisco Gotera say that at least 45 rebels have been killed. These official reports also say that approximately 4 soldiers have been killed and 10 wounded.

It has also been confirmed that before arriving in the Osicala area troops from the Atonal Battalion, who were sent to reinforce the army positions on the highways and on the slopes closest to the Cacaguatique Volcano, were also attacked by the rebels, and we repeat, clashes continue in this sector for the second consecutive day.

FMLN COMMUNIQUE WARNS REAGAN ADMINISTRATION

PA021341 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Jun 83

[Text] San Salvador -- The FMLN yesterday distributed to the news media copies of several documents of the U.S. adviser recently executed at the private university in San Salvador. In the communique, the FMLN warned the warmongering Reagan administration to end its aggression on El Salvador because, if it does not, the U.S. military advisers will return to the United States in coffins.

Regarding the U.S. supply of weapons to the Salvadoran Army, the guerrilla communique said that they will have the same fate as the 1,700 rifles seized in the latest actions.

'NO PROGRESS' REPORTED IN MURDERED NUNS CASE

PA022304 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Jun 83

[Text] Zacatecoluca -- Practically no progress has been achieved in investigations being carried out by the penal court in this city into the murder of four U.S. nuns, which took place on 2 December 1980 near the San Francisco Almedro canton in the jurisdiction of Santiago Nonualco and involves four former National Guard members.

The court has reported that the investigations have not progressed because Monsignor Arturo Rivera y Damas has not replied to a document in which he is asked to declare whether he feels he has been offended by the theft and destruction of the bus that the nuns were driving at the time of their death. The transit department has reported that the vehicle belonged to the archbishopric of San Salvador.

Reports from the court reveal that the reply to this document might very well be the last step before the case is taken before a full court; the case has been termed an act of aggravated homicide. As of yet, none of the accused has obtained a defense attorney.

HAVANA REPORTS MILITARY PERSONNEL CHANGES

PA020235 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 1 Jun 83

[Text] The Salvadoran Army High Command has removed Colonel Francisco Moran, director of the Treasury Police, and Colonel Maximiliano Leiva, commander of the 4th Infantry Brigade stationed in Chalatenango, from their posts. Colonel Moran is being replaced by Colonel Nicolas Carranza. It is said that both Carranza and Moran are members of the armed forces' extreme right. Other chiefs of military zones as well as important Armed Forces Press Committee officers were also removed from their offices.

RADIO VENCEREMOS INTERVIEWS JOAQUIN VILLALOBOS

PA021000 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 1 Jun 83

[Interview with FMLN Commander Joaquin Villalobos, secretary general of the Peoples Revolutionary Army and member of the FMLN General Command, at the Rafael Arce Zablah Military Brigade Command Post, Morazan Department; no date given; questioner not identified -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] At this moment we are with Commander Joaquin Villalobos to interview him about the activities of our revolutionary army in the country's east. Commander Joaquin Villalobos, could you tell us about the actions that concluded with the seizure of the military communications center in the Cacaguatique Volcano?

[Villalobos] We will cover some information on the fighting that took place yesterday. There is expectation of specific results. I will give you some initial results to point out the importance of the operation.

In connection with this action, we have reports about the seizure of 43 U.S.-made M-16 rifles, an M-79 grenade launcher, a 60-MM mortar, and an M-60 machinegun. All this is U.S.-made materiel. We seized other materiel including some 40,000 rounds of ammunition.

A total of 43 army soldiers heeded an FMLN appeal to the Army asking its members to put down their weapons and not to fight. They put down their arms and were taken prisoners. The Army already had 12 dead. The prisoners include a cadet lieutenant and an Army corporal. All the prisoners are from the Morazan Battalion of the San Francisco Gotera commando training center.

The fighting has included not only the La Antena operation. There has been a general operation that includes various points in Morazan and some positions in San Miguel Department. We have inflicted some 140 casualties on the Army, including the 43 prisoners . This means that in less than 48 hours we have put what amounts to almost an entire enemy company out of combat. The enemy also had a high number of casualties as a result of two ambushes by commando units. One ambush took place in the Yoloaquin-San Francisco Gotera route. Here one of our units exploded several mines under a convoy of vehicles transporting reinforcement troops to Osicala. They had many casualties there. A similar operation was carried out on the Chapeltique-Ciudad Barrios route against a mobile unit that was sent to reinforce the Ciudad Barrios position.

The Army had other casualties as a result of artillery attacks against its positions in Osicala. Our forces used 120-mm mortars. The enemy has suffered approximately 140 casualties in less than 48 hours. This is in addition to the information we provided yesterday about what happened to a helicopter gunship, and about the neutralization of the enemy artillery for a whole day as a result of firing from our 120-mm mortars.

The support weapons battalion of our brigade has played a vital role in the La Antena operation, as well asin support operations, with its artillery. The forces of our revolutionary army, the support weapons battalion of our brigade, are beginning to demonstrate a higher level of military organization.

As I was telling you, general information on what happened was reported yesterday. However, the results had not been reported.

[Question] Commander, the dictatorship has a concentration of troops where the fighting took place, where the important military communications center was seized. What can you tell us about the operation by the enemy forces?

[Villalobos] I think that, in this case, specific results are not the most important aspect. The number of enemy casualites or the materiel recovered is not what is most important. There is a combination of very important military factors that make this action an important FMLN victory.

In the first place, the operation represents a blow to the most dominant point, topographically speaking, Morazan Department. Because of the area that is visible from there, this position holds an advantage in fighting and for defensive purposes.

It is also important, not only for its fortifications, but also because some 4,000 Army troops in Morazan Department were providing it with security. This is a strategic Army position, not only for military communications purposes, but also for defending and giving security to vital enemy positions in the department.

The fact that in a short time -- sufficient, however, for reinforcements to arrive -- one of our battalions defeated that position, points up the enemy's very serious weakness and military incapacity. It is evident that, in places with fewer soldiers, the position would simply have been surrendered. They might argue that they did not have the ability to provide reinforcements. This is what they are saying now, that they abandon certain positions because they can no longer control them, but to lose a post in a dominant position, with so much communications equipment, with so many fortifications and, on top of that, with 4,000 troops that could provide immediate cooperation and air support, a position with more than eight pieces of 105-mm artillery emplaced only 8 km away, indicates military weakness, a notorious lack of capacity.

We can add that what the dictatorship considers one of its best units was involved: the Atlacatl Battalion, with its chief, Colonel Domingo Monterrosa, who is well known here in Morazan for the El Mozote massacre. He had been in the town of Perquin for propaganda rather than military purposes. In spite of this, our forces destroyed their position and right now have an advantageous position.

These facts illustrate the very big military victory won by our forces. This makes it obvious that the enemy is unable to defend its positions. Any attempt they make to recover this position will probably force them into a very big effort at a very high cost. Our forces are getting ready to engage them in a battle that will probably be at a higher level.

Today the Atlacatl forces are moving from their positions in Perquin. They began coming down yesterday. We have been maneuvering, trying to secure objectives against the battalion. We have made contact. So far there has been no important clash with the Atlacatl Battalion because there weren't many encounters in the operations area, but important clashes could be taking place with that battalion in the next few hours.

All the contacts that have been made in connection with the battle for the La Antena position have military importance. On many occasions we have said, concerning the matter of whether we should retain territory, that this is not a problem, not a point of interest to the FMLN. The important thing is that the Army, with 4,000 troops, with artillery, with the largest concentration of troops in the east, can't defend a heavily fortified position.

[Question] Commander Villalobos, on the basis of these operations in eastern El Salvador, what is the situation right now in this region?

[Villalobos] As you have been more or less reporting on Radio Venceremos, the framework is one of military activities throughout the east. The most important point is that the FMLN's military activities throughout this region are beginning to involve the enemy's strategic areas. The enemy's vital economic activities in this area have been paralyzed -- the production of cotton, coffee, and some sugarcane, which although not abundant is still produced in this zone.

The major commercial activities have also been partially paralyzed. Our forces' operations in the east have been aimed particularly at paralyzing the economy, trying for a major reduction in the dictatorship's ability to secure foreign exchange to maintain its Army.

[Question] Commander Villalobos, the dictatorship talks continuously about our sabotage of the transport sector hurting the civilian population directly. Can you tell us about the significance of sabotage to the transport sector?

[Villalobos] The dictatorship says many things. One important point regarding our sabotage of transport is that our presence on the roads -- this can be witnessed by the hundreds of persons who use the roads -- creates a degree of contact between us and the population. The various sectors of the population give us encouragement in the form of material and physical aid as they communicate with our forces when they travel over strategic routes. Our moving closer to the strategic routes in recent months has meant contact with larger sectors of the mostly urban population. When the dictatorship claims that this creates trouble for us with the population, it is engaging in propaganda. It is completely the reverse. This type of activity allows us to see the high level of support we have. We get supplies from the big transport companies carrying goods, but also from the people who voluntarily help us on the roads.

Perhaps it is important to point out the military purpose of some measures. As the enemy Army loses ground, it has been using the civilian population to cover its moves. This has occasionally presented a problem. At this stage of the war, with this level of fighting, Army troops have mingled with the population in urban buses. This represents an armed forces aggression against the civilian population. It is a way to use the civilian population as a shield. They also use private vehicles, forcing themselves on the owners, thus exposing those persons to danger. This is the main reason we, under certain circumstances, call for a general paralysis of traffic on highways. We can't mention the specific roads where we want transport to be paralyzed, because to do so would jeopardize our objectives and plans.

When we caution the civilian population not to use certain roads, this gives us a certain advantage in acting against military deployments without having to affect the civilian population. Another aspect is the nature of sabotage, which we aim basically at the big transport companies, the transnationals, and the factories of prominent members of the oligarchy.

In this context it is important to point out that the enemy wants to exploit our sabotage activities, which are legitimate and just. While the dictatorship receives massive support from U.S. imperialism so it can continue this war, it is worth noting the contrast between their abundant propaganda against our activities and the fact that the national Army, the dictatorship's Army, has acted against the peasant population, completely destroying their homes and cattle. This is only when they act less repressively, because when they reach their maximum level of repression the incidents that occur resemble those of the massacre at El Mozote and at the dozens, perhaps hundreds of other massacres that the Army has perpetrated. These incidents are in no way comparable to our activities or to the measures that we try to adopt so that civilians, the people accompanying us here, won't be affected during the fighting. With the arrival of the Atlacatl Battalion in Morazan and Colonel Monterrosa's deployment throughout this department [passage indistinct] following the massacre at El Mozote.

Blandon tried to do the same. The people left him alone. They know what he did. They know him. The same happened in Jocoaitique. A few days after this, the Atlacatl Battalion indiscriminately fired mortars at the town of Jocoaitique, killing and wounding several children and a woman. They accused us of doing it. I don't recall any situation where our artillery has caused injuries among the civilian population, not even accidentally. But they [words indistinct].

The FMLN is about to take measures to ensure that the people have some services despite the war and to see that small and midlevel transporters may continue their work, under certain conditions. Our sabotage operations against the big enterprises, the transnationals, will not stop, however. Vehicles on the road belonging to the big enterprises will be destroyed if our units have been given that mission. Those are their orders.

But we are going to take measures so that small and midlevel transporters, who have not been greatly affected as it is, may circulate freely when we don't need the roads free of traffic. This also applies to private vehicles, which, for their own security, and to help us, should avoid using the roads so that our confrontations are only with the enemy and so that no civilians are affected by our clashes.

The same goes for buses. We are going to take measures to facilitate their circulation. We appeal to their drivers to take precautions and to avoid transporting Army troops in their vehicles as much as possible, because this seriously endangers their safety. This, however, is the only kind of situation that could create problems.

Thus, we are taking measures to allow the people to circulate almost all of the time. However, whenever the FMLN calls for a full cessation of traffic, or for the avoidance of a road for a specific period of time, which is the case right now with the Litoral and the Pan-American highways, where military actions are taking place, whoever does not heed this call is liable to be involved in a clash or to face stern measures. Once the specified ban is over, however, midlevel transporters and buses may circulate with the guarantee that the FMLN will facilitate their movement.

[Question] Commander Villalobos, the U.S. Embassy in San Salvador has published a report indicating that our revolutionary forces are violating the human rights of the prisoners we have taken in combat [words indistinct].

[Villalobos] [Words indistinct] the U.S. Embassy insists that we are violating human rights, citing a specific battle in which the enemy suffered a high number of casualties, but this has occurred on other occasions as well. Some days ago they had a high number of casualties and we took a certain number of prisoners at the Quebrada Seca bridge. In the La Antena clash, however, the Army troops heeded the FMLN's call not to fight and most of them are alive as a result. More than 40 soldiers, including a lieutenant and a corporal, were taken prisoner, and they suffered only 12 dead. What the Army and the embassy are trying to do by saying that the FMLN is killing its prisoners is to keep more soldiers, troops, officers, lieutenants, and captains from surrendering.

We have prisoners from the Ramon Belloso and Jaguar Battalions, many of whom have said that they don't want to return to the Army.

We have a large number of prisoners who have joined our forces and are now fighters. Some even have responsibilities as squad and platoon commanders. This positive policy implemented by the FMLN, whereby it takes prisoners and respects their lives, has had repercussions among the enemy Army's troops, and they are trying to counteract this with lies.

Our answer will be to release some prisoners soon and to take even more prisoners from the enemy Army. We don't care what they say. We have over 1,000 witnesses who can attest to the opposite. We currently have over 70 prisoners, taken from almost all of the corps. They are told about the situation and are aware that the FMLN guarantees their rights and is fighting for their interests. In fact, I have just been informed of the capture of 6 more prisoners, bringing the total already captured at the military communications center known here in Morazan as La Antena to 49. All of these troops will be released in a few hours, as we like to talk with them a little first and explain the situation. If we do not release them immediately this is why, but they will be freed soon.

The report also revealed that we have seized additional weapons, including 7 rifles, bringing the total number of rifles recovered here by our forces to 50. We may receive more information at any time on additional results. So, that is our reply to the dictatorship. We are going to take more prisoners, meaning that more soldiers will respond to the FMLN'S call to stop fighting.

[Question] Commander Villalobos, the official voice of imperialism, the voice of the United States [as heard] has been transmitting interviews with Alejandro Montenegro. What is your opinion of the ideas expressed in these interviews?

[Villalobos] I have very little to say about their contents because I have not yet had the opportunity to hear them, in view of the situation here. I will learn of their contents in due time. What I consider more important, however, than the need to reply not to Montenegro's charges but to imperlialism, is the fact that the voice of the U.S. Government is actually engaged in a political debate with the FMLN. That is important to us and we will respond accordingly; not to Alejandro Montenegro, who is merely an instrument, a traitor like those we find throughout mankind's history such as Cain, Judas and others. They are sprinkled throughout history, but they are not important. We have already said that it is shameful to have had such an individual in our ranks, and we are sincere when we express our shame as a result.

Such incidents throughout the world's history, however, have helped us learn to identify true revolutionaries. What is of genuine political importance to us, and we reiterate this, is the fact that the voice of the U.S. Government should now be engaged in a political debate with the FMLN and with our official voice, Radio Venceremos.

Radio Venceremos has reported that their planes are entering this area in support of Army maneuvers, to assist in the search for information with which to prepare military operations, pointing out that these planes belong to the United States. In response, the voice of the United States offered an explanation.

Radio Venceremos has also broadcast an analysis of U.S. policy in the hope of reaching certain sectors, so that they may consider our opinion and our logical conclusions in terms of how they themselves can be affected by the degree of involvement in the Salvadoran situation. That is why they presented this individual, to say what he said. We are going to respond, but as a political response to the U.S. Government, which is speaking through this traitor.

Scores 'Lie' on POW Treatment

PA021349 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 2 Jun 83

[Excerpt] Alan Romberg, a spokesman for the Reagan administration, has tried through the VOA to make the world believe that the FMLN has changed its policy of respecting the lives of officers and soldiers and of releasing them, as we have already done with over 1,000 soldiers, many of whom have been turned over to the International Red Cross Committee.

It would be interesting to ask why the Reagan administration is trying to make the Salvadoran Army believe that our FMLN will no longer respect their lives if they lay down their weapons. It is very simple: Reagan and the U.S. Administration are very worried about the FMLN's success with its appeal to the Army and other armed bodies, urging them to lay down their weapons and stop fighting against their own people. This is why Reagan and his spokesman Romberg want the world, and especially the Salvadoran soldiers, to believe that we will not respect their lives if they are taken prisoners of war.

With this lie they are practicing an irresponsible policy. It is irresponsible because the U.S. Government and the fascist Salvadoran high command are sending to their deaths those officers and soldiers who, in confronting our forces, do not lay down their weapons because they believe the stories spread by Reagan and the VOA.

Radio Venceremos responds to Romberg and Reagan by not stooping to the low level of engaging in an argument about the lies spread by imperialism. Instead we will now read a partial list of the soldiers and noncommissioned officers captured at the military communications center located in the Cacaguatique Volcano. This is Radio Venceremos' answer to Reagan and his lies.

HAVANA CITES FMLN LEADER ON CACAGUATIQUE AMBUSH

FL021605 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 2 Jun 83

[Text] Salvadoran guerrilla leader Joaquin Villalobos said yesterday that the rebel forces had inflicted heavy casualties to the Guatemalan [as heard] Army upon capturing the strategic Cacaguatique Military Communications Center.

Twelve dead, 49 prisoners, dozens of wounded, and more than 50 U.S. made weapons seized are the main results of an operation carried out by rebel forces on the above hill located in the northern Morazan Department. Among the prisoners are a lieutenant and a corporal of the Morazan Battalion Commando Group, which is part of the San Francisco Cotera Training Center.

In a statement broadcast over Radio Venceremos, the FMLN mouthpiece, Villalobos said the guerrilla success in Cacaguatique is tangible evidence of the weakening of the Salvadoran Government forces.

GUATEMALA

RIOS MONTT VIEWS VAT IN WEEKLY RADIO ADDRESS

PA312146 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0200 GMT 30 May 83

[Weekly address to the nation by Guatemalan President Efrain Rios Montt, place not given -- live or recorded]

[Excerpt] In addition to analyzing the family concept, I would also like us to analyze the news media concept, and for us to realize how beautiful and wonderful it is to be able to (?express ourselves) freely. I would like to ask -- not you, but those interested in manipulating you -- when in Guatemalan history has there been so much freedom to say so many things? I ask this question because, unfortunately, so many things are said without any basis [words indistinct]. There have been attempts to avoid, not obstacles, but reasoning; the sense of ethics has been lost to a certain extent, and emotion and passion have prevailed instead. How sad and dreadful it is to express an opinion without having any knowledge of what is being said! The sad part is that we are now going to see the consequences. [Word indistinct] for example, that the consequence of acting without reasoning is failure, and, above all, an ethical failure, which results in a loss of credibility. What will politicians who have given their opinion on the value added tax [VAT] in a speculative manner have to say now? They have tried to manipulate what they call public opinion. Public opinion? Ha! The opinions favoring their own interests, opinions that are typical of (?fronts). They are paid, then, to think the way they do. It is anguishing. It is really a huge failure, and it is that you are exposing yourself not only to censure for your actions, but to criticism [words indistinct].

The VAT is not a tax designed to make administration easier for this government. This tax will be the backbone of the country's development. This tax will not provide us with a source of revenue to solve the current crisis. No! That is a lie. To solve the current crisis I could probably have chatted with all the moneyed gentlemen, and I could probably have ordered the government to take money from them and to collect a war tax from other wealthy gentlemen. But it is not a matter of solving the nation's problem; what we are doing is solving a national problem. [sentence as heard] Look, the tax problem will not be a failure.

About 15 days ago I said: Look, when this tax was levied in Germany there were three factors: 1) the prices of a large number of products dropped; 2) other prices remained unchanged; and 3) in other cases, the prices of a number of products increased. This is how it is here too. The prices of normal consumption products will decrease. The prices of many normal consumption products will be reduced. The prices of medicines will also decrease, because we will remove the VAT. This will benefit the people. Other normal consumption products, like the dresses made in Guatemala and similar products, will retain their prices because instead of paying 3 percent of the revenue stamp tax [impuesto del timbre] each time, payment will be 10 percent, distributed between businessman and consumer; thus, there is no reason to raise the prices.

Finally, there is a third group of products whose prices will be increased. These are the luxury items -- Pierre Cardin, Mercedes Benz, all kinds of vehicles and perfumes, all those things known as luxury items. These prices will be increased, especially in the case of imports. The idea is not to harm the importers but to defend both the national currency and the national industry. This is truly vital.

For example, the income tax will be apportioned. If a businessman wants to add capital to his company and really wants to create more jobs, then his income tax need not be paid. If the businessman wants to use his profits, then he will have to pay a little income tax. However, this is all, there is no other problem.

In short, the prices of food and medicine will be reduced or, at the most, remain the same. Articles that we normally use will have normal prices; they need not increase. However, the prices of luxury items will increase.

In any event, the concept of tax reforms does not imply the imposition of more taxes, but the control of taxws. I want all of us to understand this quite clearly. Please understand, we are not going to burden you with more taxes, we only want to create a system by which to control them even better. We are losing more than 400 million quetzales per year in unpaid taxes -- I repeat, more than 400 million quetzales per year.

Consequently, we are simply seeking to establish better controls. Look, according to our mathematics, the 3-percent tax that is applied on the value of each product will now become 10 percent. But it is exactly the same. These mathematics are difficult to understand, but my technicans say that 3 percent is equal to 10 percent.

However, what really angers some and causes them concern is this: Some years ago the government wanted to raise the price of the revenue stamp from 2 to 5 percent. In order to prevent this, some men spent 65,000 quetzales, which they gave to Congress. In view of this pressure, the government was compelled to give 25,000 quetzales to every deputy. The government wanted to raise the tax to 5 percent and instead could only raise it by 1 percent.

We are not doing business like this. The idea of this new system is to make long-term plans for better distribution. But the people think that the government, particularly this administration, has created this system to improve its balance of payments. No so. This is a system for the nation and not for the government.

In addition, we are willing to listen and have continued to listen to this day. We are also working. We have scheduled working meetings for every day this week. I think that with knowledge, responsibility, and dignity, we ill be able to work and implement this system as soon as possible. Do not think that we have turned our backs on you, or it would be worthless for us to be in your government.

And I need to have the family's support, because the family is the only thing that interests me. Other things do not interest me, but the family must be cautious and intelligent. We might have a crisis and you are well aware that this would not be the government's fault, because it is a worldwide problem. There were floods in Argentina and Peru, an earthquake in Japan, and so many other things are happening. Be cautious. We believe that there is a God and this God will reveal Himself any moment. Forgive me for mentioning God when I am speaking of politics, but there are others who speak of politics instead of speaking about God. May God listen to us. Thank you.

HONDURAS

DEFENSE SECRETARY VIEWS CHANCES OF WAR

PA022245 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 2 Jun 83

[Report by Jose Domingo Florez]

[Text] The National Commission on Refugees met yesterday at the government minister's offices. At the end of the meeting, Defense Secretary Colonel Amilcar Castillo Suazo reported on some of the issues discussed:

[Begin recording] [Castillo Suazo] We assessed the well-being of the refugees. We discussed their lodgings and their other needs.

[Florez] Will measures be taken to care for the Nicaraguans who are flowing into the country every day?

[Castillo Suazo] One measure that was discussed at the meeting is a request to the United Nations that the offices of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] be transferred to Tegucigalpa. These offices have been in Costa Rica and there are certain problems as a result.

[Florez] What are the problems caused by the refugees?

[Castillo Suazo] There are certain security problems. Sometimes we lose control over the refugees and they suddenly get into trouble.

[Florez] What is the reason for the transfer of the UNHCR to Honduras?

[Castillo Suazo] Well, every time we face a problem we have to solve it through the UNHCR in Costa Rica.

[Florez] What is your opinion of the U.S. military base in Trujillo to train Salvadoran and other troops?

[Castillo Suazo] The matter is pending.

[Florez] Would the establishment of this military base benefit the Honduran Army?

[Castillo Suazo] As I've said, we will know that when the decision is made.

[Florez] Is the base good for the Honduran Army?

[Castillo Suazo] Well, when it comes to security, we need it, because we would then have more direct assistance and technical aid from the United States.

[Florez] What is your opinion of the Sandinist commanders' expansionism?

[Castillo Suazo] We are a democratic country and we must try to ensure that our liberties and values prevail.

[Florez] Are we on the verge of war with Nicaragua?

[Castillo Suazo] A lot has been said about that and I don't reject the possibility. [end recording]

[Florez] In referring to a possible military confrontation with Nicaragua, the defense secretary added:

[Begin recording] [Castillo Suazo] I believe that the possibility of a war cannot be rejected if, theoretically speaking, our country were attacked by a fraternal country in the Central American or Caribbean area.

[Florez] Are our armed forces ready?

[Castillo Suazo] As other branch commanders in the armed forces and I have repeatedly said, our cadres are increasing their training and are filled with nationalism and the fervent desire to preserve our sovereignty and our democratic institutions. [end recording]

NICARAGUA

SPECIAL U.S. ENVOY STONE INVITED TO VISIT

PA021440 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 2 Jun 83

[Foreign Ministry Information and Press Directorate communique dated 1 June 1983 -- read by announcer]

[Text] In view of the coming visit to Central America by Richard Stone, a former senator who is now roving ambassador and special U.S. envoy to Central America, the Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Republic of Nicaragua reports the following: The Government of the Republic of Nicaragua invites Mr Richard Stone to visit Nicaragua on any date he finds appropriate in order to meet with officials of our government, exchange views on topics of mutual interest, and visit the areas of our country where the effects of the U.S. Government's policy of aggression against Nicaragua are being more strongly felt.

The Nicaraguan Government again reaffirms its willingness to engage in a process of dialogue with the U.S. Government because it feels that this is the appropriate mechanism to discuss differences and concerns within a framework of sovereign equality and mutual respect. The Nicaraguan Foreign Affairs Ministry announces its decision to issue the visa requested by the U.S. Government for roving Ambassador Richard Stone, special U.S. envoy to Central America.

The Nicaraguan Government reasserts its strong advocacy of peace, the cornerstone of its foreign policy. Furthermore, reaffirming its willingness to begin a serious and constructive dialogue with the U.S. Government, the Nicaraguan Government hopes that Mr Stone's visit will in fact contribute to achieving these objectives.

FOREIGN MINISTER D'ESCOTO ATTACKS U.S. POLICY

PM021531 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 3 Jun 83 pp 52, 53

[Interview with Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto Brockman by Raghidah Dirgham; in New York "during Security Council debate of Nicaragua's complaint against the United States"; date not given]

[Excerpt] Question: Obviously Nicaragua and the United States disagree over the UN role in resolving the present crisis between the two countries.

You want an effective UN role, while the United States insists on keeping the issue outside the United Nations and in the hands of the OAS. The "Contadora" Group is trying to find a compromise between the two stands, provided the United Nations has a role directly linked to the Contadora Group. Is the Contadora attempt plausible, and can it be implemented? What if this attempt fails?

Answer: There is no doubt the United States does not feel confident, and its position is shaken every time Nicaragua brings its case to the Security Council. Every time we bring our case against the U.S. invasion of our country to be condemned, the United States is aware that it cannot control the debate or the resolution that is to emanate from the council. Every time it has tried to prevent a resolution from being adopted it has had to use the veto again and again, and that is still the case. This will lead to weakening confidence in the United States and will undermine the U.S. reputation. Consequently, the Americans prefer not to use the veto, or at least to avoid using it as much as possible. On the other hand, the Americans have realized that their influence on world countries in general has receded, but they are still capable of influencing and controlling the OAS states. The roots of this organization lie deep in U.S. interests in Latin America. It is a strange regional organization since its membership does not include all the countries of the area. It is under the control of the area's enemy, that is, the United States, which exploits it in promoting its own interests.

Question: The United States believes for its part that Nicaragua's policy provides the political arguments it seeks in order to defend its own policy toward Nicaragua and El Salvador. Let us take two U.S. arguments: one is what Washington describes as the spread of Soviet influence in Central America through Nicaragua, and the other is Washington's accusation against Managua that you support the revolution in El Salvador and provide it with arms.

Answer: Let me tell you that the argument and the accusation that Nicaragua is serving as an arms channel for El Salvador is an excuse; it is an excuse and nothing else. We must recall that this is not the first time in a century that the United States has invaded Nicaragua. We were under U.S. military occupation for a long time, from 1912 to 1933. The U.S. excuse then was that Nicaragua was about to become another "Mexico" and that Washington could not allow this because it threatened U.S. national security.

Their excuse now is that they imagine that we are about to become a foothold for another big power. The fact is that they have always and historically moved against national efforts in Latin America to change the decadent sociopolitical structures that have imposed subjugation on our people. The existing tyrannical internal situations are the cause of the present disturbances in Latin America. This was also confirmed recently by the heads of two important states in the area, namely Brazil and Mexico. There is no East-West involvement or conflict. The Contadora Group has affirmed this. The Nonaligned Movement also said the same thing, namely that such a view is arbitrary and tyrannical. The United States imagines Eastern (Soviet) interference everywhere.

Question: The Americans point to actual and active aid being given to you by Cuba.

Answer: Yes, Cuba does support us, and we support Cuba. Cuba and Nicaragua are linked by friendship. Cuba is not alone in supporting us; we are supported by several world countries such as France, Sweden, and particularly Mexico more than any other country. What does this mean? It means that Nicaragua as a government is indeed trying to represent its people and to serve them.

Question: The Americans' excuse is that Cuba's support represents a Soviet danger and intereference in Nicaragua through Cuba, so that it is a danger threatening the United States through its back door.

Answer: Of course they say so. It is unfortunate that they have this deep concern and these confused ideas. Indeed, they need pyschiatric help. That is what I believe. They have fallen victim to a phobia and are unable to put forward any positive suggestion. They behave with the obsession of people wanting to protect interests which they imagine are threatened by everyone who does not submit to the American will.

For our part in Nicaragua, we will not submit to the U.S. will under any circumstances. We do not want the kind of democracy which Reagan applauded in his recent speech; Reagan's democracy is rejected in Nicaragua. He speaks about the former dictator Somoza's royal guards as freedom fighters. Yes, they are freedom fighters of the Somoza type. The kind of "freedom" Reagan wants in Nicaragua is the type we knew under Somoza's domination, the kind we have disavowed and will never allow to return to our country or to be imposed on us. We want genuine freedom and democracy and not the "democracy" which the United States loved so much during Somoza's rule.

But we should not be surprised by this, for those who sympathized and agreed with Somoza's rule cannot accept a real national democratic government. Those who support Zionist aggression against Lebanon and the Palestinians, who prevented the Security Council from shouldering its responsibilities toward the Zionist crimes, who support South Africa's racist regime, who loved the former shah and Somoza -- what can be expected of them? Can we expect them to follow the course of real democracy?

Question: But "those" people are not necessarily the Reagan administration. You mentioned the shah and Somoza, who were in office during the Carter and not the Reagan administration. Is your problem with the Reagan administration, with the United States, or with both?

Answer: Unfortunately, we have always suffered at the hands of the U.S. Government. The situation now, with the present administration, that is Reagan's, is the worst.

Question: Did you mean what you said before about Reagan's need for a psychiatrist because of obsessive suspicion of the Soviets and everything connect with them?

Answer: He needs many things. He should come down to earth. He needs someone to make him understand that he cannot halt the march of history or the peoples, regardless of imperialist trends. We want a better world. He will never be able, whether through violence, browbeating, aggression, or invasion, to suppress the people's will in their world and their quest for a better life.

Question: During the past year and immediately following Reagan's visit to some Central American countries, the Israeli defense minister went to Guatemala to coordinate certain military matters and sell arms to Honduras....

Answer: Yes, Honduras....

Question: Is there a military link between Israel and some Central American states that actually influences the development of events in the area?

Answer: There is absolutely no doubt of that. What is the Zionist regime if not an embodiment of the U.S. infiltration and the domination that Washington intends to impose on the Middle East? They have previously used the Zionist government to carry out what the U.S. Government could not do directly. Under the Somoza regime it was difficult for the U.S. Administration to back him, so it relied on its client, Israel, to send arms to Somoza on its behalf. Now history is repeating itself. And for this reason that "horror," Sharon, visited Honduras. At the end of his visit he announced that he had agreed to sign a military cooperation agreement of unprecedented magnitude with the Honduran government.

Question: You mean that Israel's role in Central America is that active...?

Answer: There is without a doubt a real danger in Latin America, and particularly in Central America, actually stemming from Zionist infiltration and intrusion.

Question: How great is the Israeli military involvement?

Answer: I cannot pretend to know the figures or the extent of involvement at this moment, because I don't have them available. But I can affirm that military aid and cooperation with some Central American countries known for their repressive regimes have been and still are large in proportion. At this time in particular the proportion of such aid is greater than ever before.

Question: U.S. Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick, one of the bulwarks of the Reagan administration's policies in Central America, said 2 weeks ago that Washington can concentrate on food aid to Central America when the Soviet Union stops shipping arms on Libyan planes flown to Nicaragua by PLO pilots. What is your reaction to this?

Answer: First, nobody in the world can object to Nicaragua's desire to develop. For the first time in history Nicaragua is establishing a professional Army for legitimate self-defense. We wanted to buy U.S. arms. We need their arms, but the United States, as is well known, refused to sell us arms. If the United States thinks that by refusing to sell us arms it can curb our right to acquire arms from any place we can get them, it is wrong. We are one of the world's small countries, suffering from extreme poverty. We are now suffering from interference and military aggression against us by the United States.

Question: You mean through the U.S. training of the remnants of Somoza guards in Florida?

Answer: I am not referring only to training. I am using the term invasion, I repeat, invasion. Why do I call this invasion?

Because it is directly organized and coordinated by the United States. War is no less a fact simply because the United States has not officially declared it. You cannot say to peoples: Do not die, simply because this is not a declared war. The United States is waging war and the war is no less American because it is using mercenaries instead of its own forces, U.S. forces. Why is this war American? Because the Americans have prepared it and organized it; they arm the fighters in it and they manage it. U.S. media have themselves published such information and facts on a large scale. I am referring here to TIME magazine, which cited the existence of three command levels directing this war. The planners behind what are known as or alleged to be rebels are a U.S. intelligence (CIA) team and the U.S. Southern Command in Panama. The second level consists of Honduran officers, and the third level is Somoza's former National Guard. It is an American war. Even U.S. congressmen have classified U.S. interference an immoral action and not only a violation of the principles that the United States defends but also a direct violation of the political principles of international relations and the UN Charter. So, under the present circumstances, who in the world can deny us our right to obtain what arms we need to defend ourselves against such a savage aggression?

Question: Do you mean to say that you will seek to secure military aid even if that may lead you to become largely dependent on the Soviet Union in confronting U.S. aggression?

Answer: We will seek aid everywhere. If your question alludes only to the Soviet Union, I must assert once again that we obtain arms not only from the Soviet Union but from several countries. Indeed, as the United States knows, we obtain arms from various countries, and I wish we could obtain larger quantities.

Question: Let me ask you an embarrassing, though practical, question: Can Nicaragua, the newly independent state that is ruled by the young Sandinist revolution, face a giant like the United States in a war such as you just mentioned?

Answer: An important question. You have put your finger on the sore point. The question is precisely: Where does the United States stand? Its excuse, or its allegations, that we supply arms to El Salvador is groundless because the United States, as is known, has the most advanced electronic equipment and yet has so far been unable to prove or to show evidence to support its allegation. What is its problem? Its problem is that little Nicaragua has been able to strike its own independent course, free of the grip of U.S. domination. So it has become a kind of alarm or incentive for other Latin American peoples that also want to be free of U.S. control and domination but are afraid to approach that dream, thinking it unattainable. But, while we are actually proving that this is possible and that the dream is not impossible, we become the incentive and the alarm, and so the Reagan administration finds this a threat to its interests. Consequently, it has decided not to allow Nicaragua to succeed in continuing in its course and its new existence. For this reason it has decided to destroy the popular Sandinist revolution so that the peoples of the area will learn a lesson of the futility of trying to free themselves from the U.S. hold.

Question: It is also said, Mr Minister, that the opposition to the Sandinist government includes one of the principal figures who helped in the revolution's success against Somoza. They refer to the man known then as "Commander Zero," or Pastora. He was a freedom fighter. Is he a traitor or a fighter?

Answer: Without a doubt, he is a traitor. Judas was also a traitor. Jesus Christ chose 12 disciples but did not avoid choosing one who had the qualities of a traitor. We have also done the same thing, with one exception. That is the fact that Pastora was absolutely not one of the principal mainstays of the Sandinist front. He is an individual whom the American press built up and portrayed as a "great" man, probably because they had foreknowledge of the way and method in which they would use him later, that is, now. The CIA probably built up his image. In any case, he is a traitor. There is no doubt about that. We should not be surprised by it. As I have already said, a traitor was even found among Christ's 12 disciples. Treason is an ancient and unfortunate phenomenon.

Question: Will you accept UN observation forces on your borders with neighboring countries?

Answer: This not being proposed at present. What we are demanding now is much simpler than that. With the Almighty's help our efforts will succeed and peace will prevail in our country. Let the United States abandon its plans to overthrow our government. The proof of the U.S. despair in its attempt to allege that the people in Nicaragua are against U.S. is in the fact that it has been forced to use the old guard of a former dictator whose hands are stained with the blood of genocidal massacres. They have been forced to use them because they found nobody else ready to fight against the legitimate government in Nicaragua.

Question: It appears to me that, despite your strong disagreement with the United States, you want the U.S. Government to recognize the Sandinist government with its ideology and its existing structure.

Answer: It is obliged to do so. That is its duty. It must respect us just as we respect it. We do not necessarily like Reagan, but we consider the matter to be up to the Americans, not us.

Question: Since it is unlikely at present that Washington will recognize the Sandinist government and give it credibility, what other options are open to you?

Answer: Of course the United States is big and powerful and can go on killing and annihilating my people. But I ask the Americans to think of something else -- their dignity. They can kill us, but by continuing to kill us they will drown their dignity in the swamp of our blood.

NOTIMEX INTERVIEWS INTERIOR MINISTER BORGE

FL022215 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2108 GMT 2 Jun 83

[By Guillermo Zamora, NOTIMEX correspondent]

[Text] Managua, 2 Jun (NOTIMEX) -- As long as the political willingness of the U.S. Government remains opposed to the path of negotiation, we will remain in a blind alley, Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge said today.

In an exclusive NOTIMEX interview, Tomas Borge described the gestures of the Contadora Group as a serious effort to establish peace in the region. But he pointed out that Nicaragua needs to establish bilateral negotiations with the U.S. Government and its allies in Central America who insist on attacking the Sandinist revolution.

The conflicts in the area are between the United States and Nicaragua, he said, inasmuch as that superpower has led the invasion against us and has created division between our country and other Central American nations, particularly as it concerns Honduras, which it has turned into a center for counterrevolution and for support to our enemies.

The Central American conflict is also between El Salvador and Nicaragua since that country's government, along with the U.S. Government, insists on accusing the Sandinists of sending arms to the Salvadoran insurgents when, in fact, this has never been proven. To prove this, he insisted, we are willing to discuss this bilaterally with them. But he regretted that none of these countries involved in the interventionist policy of the United States is free to make this decision, a freedom which Nicaragua possesses thanks to the Sandinist struggle.

In this connection he recalled the statement made by Honduran Foreign Minister Edgardo Paz Barnica at the recent Contadora meeting in Panama. He said then: It is impossible for me to talk about bilateral negotiations with Nicaragua because when I get back to my country they would put me to the guillotine. This reveals, Borge added, that the Honduran Government cannot make its own decisions in international matters since it must first ask permission from the U.S. ambassador to Honduras, John Dimitri Negroponte, while we in Nicaragua do not have to ask permission from anyone.

The Nicaraguan minister categorically rejected reports that Nicaragua is experiencing civil war, asserting that Nicaragua is certainly at war, but it is defending its sovereignty against the counterrevolutionary invaders and not against its own people.

Asked by the NOTIMEX correspondent what message he would like to send to U.S. President Ronald Reagan to put an end to the status quo in the region, Borge pointed out that nothing can be said to someone who is as deaf as a post and incapable of hearing the the voice of common sense. Instead, Borge added, I would send a message to the American people not to be fooled by Reagan's policy, which is deliberately distorted to persuade the American people to take part in the aggression against this nation and its revolution.

CLARIN INTERVIEWS JUNTA MEMBER SERGIO RAMIREZ

PY020028 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 26 May 83 p 20

[Interview with Sergio Ramirez, member of the Nicaraguan Government Junta, by correspondent Mario Stilman: "Despite the Pressures, the Americas Support Nicaragua"; in Managua; date not given]

[Text] Managua, 25 May -- Sergio Ramirez, member of the Nicaraguan Government Junta, emphasized to CLARIN that "there is unanimous consensus among Latin American countries to oppose the U.S. aggression against the Sandinist regime, even beyond the ideological differences these nations may have regarding the purpose of our revolution and our style of government.

"We recognize that we are not the ideal type of regime for many Latin American governments, but very few countries would support a direct intervention or an intervention through third countries against Nicaragua."

In a thorough analysis of inter-American relations as a result of the Central American crisis, Sergio Ramirez said that "Nicaraguan relations with Latin American countries should be considered within the context of U.S. relations with the continent."

[Question] However, Washington is exerting strong pressure on some countries.

[Answer] It is important to keep in mind two important events in Latin America: the Nicaraguan revolution in 1979 and the Malvinas war in 1982. In 1979 the Latin American countries for the first time defeated a U.S. diplomatic proposal at the OAS when, during the 17th OAS meeting, Secretary of State Cyrus Vance proposed military intervention in Nicaragua with the application of the Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty (TIAR). TIAR was again mentioned during the British aggression against Argentina. From this time on the quality of U.S. relations with Latin America has changed.

[Question] I repeat: There is strong pressure, particularly against the countries of the Contadora Group -- Mexico and Colombia -- which particularly support Nicaragua.

[Answer] Had the U.S. Government obtained support as a result of this pressure, the Reagan administration would have taken other measures long ago.

[Question] Let's see: Do you not believe that Venezuela, Panama, and Costa Rica could give in to some type of pressure?

[Answer] It will not be so easy, because we are talking about the legitimization of the use of force in Central America.

[Question] Can you give an example? What countries do you believe would support a U.S. proposal for the implementation of TIAR?

[Answer] Perhaps Paraguay will vote in favor. Also Haiti. The United States has always bought Haiti's vote at the OAS. El Salvador and Honduras for obvious reasons.

[Question] And Guatemala?

[Answer] I do not know. I am not even sure if Chile would vote for the U.S. proposal, and I am not talking about Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, Argentina, Colombia, Brazil....

[Question] Disregarding the fact that Brazil held Libyan planes with arms for Nicaragua?

[Answer] That is a different problem.

[Question] I am returning to the original concept: The first Costa Rican proposal at the OAS was to ask for military forces. Is this not reason enough to believe that the possibilities exist?

[Answer] But Costa Rica changed its mind and only asked for observers because it said publicly that it does not feel capable of defending its borders.

[Question] Are you forgetting that the OAS meeting is still open and Costa Rica has not withdrawn its original proposal?

[Answer] But it has supported the Contadora proposals. Now that you have mentioned Panama, it seems interesting to me that Panamanians continue to strongly support Torrijos' policies opposing the U.S. domination plans.

[Question] You are taking Panama out of one context to put it into another.

[Answer] Let me see if I can clarify what I am trying to say. We will have an evaluation about the defined attitude of a country when the government of that country says whether the Reagan administration efforts to overthrow the Nicaraguan Government by force are legal or illegal.

[Question] Do you believe Washington is aware of this consensus?

[Answer] It is obvious.

[Question] I do not believe so. The United States insists on circumscribing the conflict within the OAS and taking it out of the United Nations despite the UN Security Council resolution on this matter.

[Answer] This proves the validity of what I am saying. This is the first time that the United States has not vetoed a resolution of this nature in the UN Security Council, thus accepting that a matter concerning Central America can be debated outside the OAS. This has no precedent. And then there is the fact that an ad hoc organiztion like Contadora -- different from the OAS -- gets the responsibility for solving this problem peacefully.

[Question] Do you believe in the Contadora negotiations?

[Answer] I am convinced that this is a more effective ad hoc organization than the OAS.

[Question] Do you believe this organization has a future?

[Answer] Contadora could be the seed of an OAS without the United States....

[Question] That was precisely the proposal made by former Panamanian President Aristides Royo after a meeting with Herrera Campins. This idea was revived by Betancur 10 days ago... but Royo immediately disappeared from the scene.

[Answer] This is the result of the dynamics of events. If Contadora is capable of finding a negotiated solution, the idea of a Latin American and Caribbean organization would be reinforced.

[Question] Are you familiar with the document signed by Sol Linowitz and Galo Plaza, among others?

[Answer] Yes, I am familiar with it.

[Question] What do you think of it?

[Answer] We do not agree on all its points because that declaration introduces the East-West element, which we do not accept. This is not a problem between the United States and the Soviet Union. This is the idea which led to all the excesses of the Reagan administration against Nicaragua.

[Question] And if you take away that point?
[Answer] Everything comes apart then...
[Question] Because the United States refuses to hold bilateral talks with you?
[Answer] Because it will lose.
[Question] Can you be more explicit?
[Answer] We do not have to say that we are being attacked. Reagan himself has said that the "Somozist guards are freedom fighters." He also said that he is ready to make public the things now being done under cover. Around a negotiating table our position will prevail with the use of a recorder.

[Question] How is that?

[Answer] Did you not read the declarations of General Nutting, chief of Panama's Southern Command, who said that the problem is that Reagan fails to make up his mind to invade us? Did you not read that Senator Barry Goldwater admitted that we should be invaded before it is too late?

[Question] It could be simple rhetoric...

[Answer] No, under no circumstance is this rhetoric. We have suffered more than 500 dead this year. This is not rhetoric.

[Question] But it is believed that the political cost of these declarations would be very high for the Reagan administration.

[Answer] It is not only up to Reagan's will and the will of the ideologists of the Hertridge [as published] Foundation.

[Question] Are you discarding that possibility?

[Answer] No, we are not discarding it, that is, they would have to be willing to pay a very high cost. And perhaps Reagan's desire to be reelected in 1985 will save some Nicaraguan lives.

CULTURE MINISTER ON CHURCH, TIES WITH USSR

PA021650 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1317 GMT 2 Jun 83

[Text] Geneva, 2 Jun (EFE) -- Nicaraguan Culture Minister Father Ernesto Cardenal said in Geneva on 2 June that the situation of the priests who are part of the Nicaraguan Government is regulated by the Catholic Church. At a press conference Cardinal spoke of the proliferation of "unknown, strange and even extravagant" religious sects in Nicaragua. Many of them have been sent by the CIA "to preach against the Sandinist revolution," he said.

The minister spoke in favor of the Contadora peace plan, but stressed that its success depends on whether the Reagan administration will truly accept it "in fact and not only with words." Cardenal is on a 3-day private visit to Switzerland. He was invited by the Swiss Committees of Solidarity with Nicaragua.

The Nicaraguan minister, who has just concluded an official visit to Austria, will also pay an official visit to Finland and Sweden. He will pay a private visit to the FRG, where he will participate in a religious festival in Dusseldorf. He will also make a private visit to Italy, where he will attend the drives for Nicaragua organized by the Elio Basso Foundation (former Russel Court).

At the press conference, Cardenal said that no audience with Pope John Paul II had been planned. He also recal'ed that the pope had told him informally during a brief greeting at Managua airport that he "should normalize his situation." After arguing that the Nicaraguan bishops have authorized the priest-ministers to exercise their political functions for the duration of the state of emergency, Father Cardenal said that the pope was possibly only trying to remind him that this exceptional situation was about to end.

He said that "not only is this not so, but the Nicaraguan situation has worsened and we are now in a state of war" due to attacks from some 7,000 to 8,000 Somozist guards "armed and financed in Honduras by the Reagan administration." Cardenal dismissed as less important the attacks from the south launched by Eden Pastora and some 1,000 men. In Cardenal's opinion, these men will have to suspend the armed struggle because "to penetrate Nicaragua in their condition is truly suicidal."

The minister also said that "it has never entered the mind of the Nicaraguan Government -- or the USSR authorities, I believe -- to build a transoceanic canal in Nicaragua. That is yet another U.S. invention." Finally, Minister Cardenal added, "our relations with the Soviet Union are extremely good, but Moscow knows perfectly well that it has no business interfering in Nicaragua."

STATE COUNCIL APPROVES 3 ARTICLES OF PARTIES LAW

PA021447 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Jun 83

[Text] Heated and fraternal debates occurred yesterday in the State Council during the discussion of Articles 3, 4, and 5 of the draft of the political parties law. When a consensus was reached between the groups and parties that represent the will of the majority and those of the rightwing, the State Council members approved the following:

Article 3: The groups legally recognized as political parties will have rights and guarantees and they will be obliged to fulfill the duties established by this law and other laws that the republic might establish.

After a number of revisions, Article 4 states: Political parties can freely organize in the country without any ideological restriction. The existence of groups or political parties that seek the return of Somozism or tht advocate the establishment of a similar political system is prohibited.

Article 5 states: Political parties will be governed by their own principles and objectives and they must respect the fundamental statute, the statute on the Nicaraguans' rights and guarantees, and the essential principles of the Sandinist peoples' revolution, such as anti-imperialism and its deeply democratic and popular character.

BULGARIAN DAILY INTERVIEWS PSC LEADER DIAZ

AU261531 Sofia ZEMEDELSKO ZNAME in Bulgarian 20 May 83 p 4

[Todor Koyumdzhiev interview with Mauricio Diaz, secretary general of the Social Christian Party of Nicaragua [PSC], during the latter's visit to Bulgaria at the invitation of the BZNS [Bulgarian Agrarian Peoples Union] leadership; date, place not given]

[Text] At the invitation of the BZNS Permanent Board, a delegation of the PSC visited our country under the leadership of Mauricio Diaz, secretary general of the party. Mauricio Diaz gave a special interview to a representative of our editorial board:

QUESTION: How would you describe the political situation in Nicaragua at the present stage, when your country is being subjected to permanent blackmail and constant provocations inspired by the CIA of the United States and committed by the reactionary gangs placed at their service?

ANSWER: Nicaragua rejected the merciless dictatorship of Somoza, which lasted over 45 years, on 19 July 1977 [year as published]. This period was a dark page in the history of our people, a period of mass repression, terror, and persecutions, a period of complete chaos and disorder in the administration. Actually, our country and its natural resources had been handed over to U.S. imperialism.

The overthrow of this dictatorship began a stage of radical change and basic transformations. The main element of this change is the unprecedented and broad participation of the people, of the working people and of various social groups, not only in rejecting the hateful Somoza regime, but also in directly working for the restoration of our long-suffering and devastated state, for our basically destabilized economy.

The establishment of a new revolutionary government reflected the hopes of all democratic strata in our country -- workers, peasants, intelligentsia, clergy, and others -- that their interests would be protected by this government. As early as in its first practical actions, the government justified these hopes and confirmed its intentions. An offensive was launched against large capital, the big owners in all sectors. A number of measures were adopted on behalf of the people and the working masses. The National Reconstruction Government began to implement progressive reforms in many fields, such as industry, transportation, health protection, agriculture, and others.

During the initial period this process, although accompanied by logical, objective difficulties, proceeded in a relatively calm atmosphere. Later, however, when the highest waves of the revolutionary storm had subsided, the overthrown but not yet fully liquidated circles began to raise their heads and mobilize their efforts.

The strategy of the CIA and the Pentagon directed against Nicaragua at the present stage of development is accompanied by overt aggression, gross provocations, and pressure aimed at gradually exhausting the revolutionary power and isolating it, with a view to compelling it to compromise on the principles of revolution and to deviate from the chosen path.

This policy practiced by Reagan, however, is not producing the expected results and is resolutely rejected by the people. This is because the Sandinist government is actually demonstrating its unshakable will to lead the country along the path of an institutionalization of the democratic structures and along the path of a legitimate election process, as well as along the path of observing the model of a mixed economy and of promoting a consistent foreign policy line based on the principles of nonalignment.

QUESTION: What can you say about the role and place of your Social Christian Party in the political processes in Nicaragua?

ANSWER: Our party is relatively new. It was established in 1976 after the split of the Christial Democratic Party, which is a traditional party in our country. The leftwing of the party developed into the PSC. We have one member and one candidate member in the State Council, while our representative in the government is the deputy minister of maritime transportation and ports.

Our party's social basis, which is increasingly expanding, is to be found among the working people's strata in towns and villages, as well as among the intelligentsia, wherever the Catholic Church has any influence.

In the current complicated situation in Nicaragua, the PSC is acting in support of the revolutionary process for a more prompt implementation of its goals. We are working together with the other democratic forces to work out and adopt a law on political parties, as well as law on mass media. We are directly and actively participating in resisting the provocations of the reactionaries and of the mercenary gangs. We are guided by the conviction that despite the aggressive actions of the United States, despite the gross pressure, we will be able to preserve and consolidate the revolutionary achievements in Nicaragua. This is why we must rely particularly on the international support of the socialist community countries, including the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

QUESTION: What has revolution achieved in the agricultural sector in Nicaragua?

ANSWER: Before the victory of the revolution, the majority of the land belonged to Somoza and his family, to people in his inner circle, or to the big landowners and large agricultural monopolies of the United States. Today 40 percent of the land belongs to the cooperatives and 40 percent to the small landowners. At the end of 1981 we adopted a law on agrarian reform. As a result, the lands of the former landowners, who had fled the country, were expropriated and the uncultivated plots were also confiscated. The private landowners could keep as much land as they could cultivate themselves. A maximum amount of property which everyone may own was introduced. The limit is determined by the area and the cultivated crops. Trade unions for the small and middle class landowners were established -- UNAG, and for the agricultural workers -- ATS. In other words, though slowly, the agrarian reform is advancing. The new cooperative movement is also developing, aimed at a progressive transformation of Nicaraguan villages. In this respect, too, we particularly appreciate the experience of Bulgaria in building up agriculture and the contribution of the BZNS to the great successes achieved in this sector.

QUESTION: How to you evaluate the present state and future prospects of development in the relations between the BZNS and the PSC?

ANSWER: Our contacts have a brief history: They are only 2 years old. However, I am visiting Bulgaria for the third time and a delegation of ours recently participated in your party's second congress. We value this dynamic development as confirmation of the mutual advantage of developing our cooperation and as a demonstration of the closeness and common goals of our two parties in their political views.

I would particularly like to point out, in this respect, that these relations are especially useful for us. From the meetings and talks, from what we have seen, from what we know and learn about Bulgaria and the BZNS, we are learning a very important lesson. The results of the participation of the BZNS in the construction of a developed socialist society in your country are consolidating our confidence and our unshakable will to cooperate with all our efforts of the revolutionary government to build socialism in Nicaragua. The example, the fraternal cooperation, and the unity of action between the BZNS and the BCP [Bulgarian Communist Party] are a source of inspiration for us and fill us with confidence.

We attach great importance to personal contacts between leaders of the two parties. Our present talks with Petur Tanchev, secretary of the BZNS and deputy chairman of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, contribute to the clarification of the main questions of mutual interest and to mapping out the crucial trends in the development of our future contacts. The results of these contacts fill us with optimism.

HAVANA CITES ORTEGA STATEMENT ON HONDURAS

PA021723 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Jun 83

[Text] Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, warned that the installation of a U.S. military base in Honduras means an increase in U.S. intervention in Central America. Ortega added that the U.S. leaders will try to involve, not only the Honduran Army, but all those countries that send men to be trained at the new base, in the aggression against Nicaragua and the Salvadoran people. The base will be located at Puerto Castilla on the northern coast of Honduras.

Ortega stressed that, in order to defeat the Nicaraguan revolution, President Ronald Reagan's government has committed the Honduran military sectors in its aggressive plans and has placed at the head of the Army blind and dumb instruments, such as Mr Gustavo Alvarez Martinez. Ortega pointed out that Alvarez Martinez has betrayed the Honduran people by handing over part of their national territory to the Pentagon. He also said that Reagan's stand takes us back to the times of the big stick. This explains why the United States does not want to hold a dialogue with Nicaragua.

ARDE DENOUNCES ALLEGED SANDINIST 'CRIMES'

PA021845 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0000 GMT 2 Jun 83

[Communique No 21 issued on 1 June 1983 by the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, Arde, Armed Forces General Command in "the mountains of Nicaragua" -- read by announcer]

[Text] The General Command of the Arde Armed Forces reports to the people of Nicaragua and the world:

1. At 0800 on 25 May in the place known as San Jose, near (La Azucena), the bodies of six peasants who were sympathizers [of Arde] were found. Their bodies were in an advanced state of decomposition.

2. The peasants were executed and then beheaded by the totalitarian Managua regime's interventionist Army. After they were killed, the peasants were dressed in olive green so their bodies would not be noticed.

3. We charge that on the same day and in reprisal against our people, the interventionist Army burned the humble houses of the following families in (Mataderos de Cana): Pablo Chavez, Caterina Cecilia Silvestre, Leonidas Arcia, Juan Mendoza, and Moises Gonzalez. We also report the death of two civilians, one of them known as Perfecto.

4. We denounce these crimes against defenseless people. We also report to our people and the free peoples of the world the manipulation of the Nicaraguan citizens. The interventionist Army uses women, elderly people, and children as shields, and if they refuse to cooperate, the houses of these poor peasants are burned or they are brutally killed.

Without totalitarianism; without returning to the past! Free fatherland or death.

ANTI-SANDINISTS REPORT AMBUSH ON ARMY FORCES

PA021852 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0000 GMT 2 Jun 83

[Communique No 22 issued on 31 May 1983 by the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, Arde, Armed Forces General Command in "the mountains of Nicaragua" -- read by announcer]

[Text] The Arde Armed Forces General Command reports to our people and the free peoples of the world:

1. At 1330 on 31 May 1983, the Juan Santamaria squad of the Francisco Rodriguez column ambushed the enemy on La Flor farm.

2. As a result, the Managua totalitarian regime's interventionist Army suffered eight dead and several wounded.

3. We sustained no dead or wounded. The morale of our combatants continues unchanged. They are hitting the invading enemy intensely and achieving their military objectives.

Long live Commander Francisco Rodriguez! Without totalitarianism, without returning to the past!

BRIEFS

RETURN OF BATTALION 50-14 -- The brave members of Battalion 50-14 were welcomed yesterday by the people of the San Cristobal neighborhood of Managua after spending more than 6 months fighting the Somozist invaders in the mountains of northern Nicaragua. [Summary] [Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 May 83 PA]

TROOP MOVEMENTS -- San Isidro de la Cruz Verde residents have given a warm welcome to reservists of Battalion 50-10. The reservists told them of their experiences in the northern area. Meanwhile, the Hilario Sanchez Reserve Battalion left Bluefields for somewhere in Nicaragua in order to defend the homeland. [Summary] [Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 31 May 83 PA]

RODRIGUEZ SPEAKS AT RIBICIC'S AWARD CEREMONY

FL021350 Havana Domestic Television in Spanish 0037 GMT 2 Jun 83

[Speech by Cuban Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez during ceremony at which Fidel Castro decorates Mitja Ribicic, president of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia, LCY, with the Order of Jose Marti at Havana's Palace of the Revolution -- live]

[Text] Comrade Fidel Castro, Comrade Mitja Ribicic, president of the SFRY Communist League Central Committee Presidium, comrades of the SFRY delegation, comrades:

This year our people are commemorating the 130 anniversary of Marti's birth, who was undoubtedly the most brilliant and exceptional figure among the glorious group of Cuban patriots of the past century. He was also a man whose political, moral, intellectual, and revolutionary qualities have been recognized worldwide.

Jose Marti is regarded as the principal hero of our fatherland and as the all-time guide of Cuban revolutionaries. Three decades ago, on the year which marked the 100th anniversary of Marti's birth, his ideas and examples inspired Fidel Castro and his comrades to launch the attack on the Moncada Barracks, the action which cleared the path of struggle and heroism through which we would later achieve full national liberation and build the socialist revolution. It may thus be understood that the Order of Jose Marti has special significance and value for us. It is designed to honor prominent personalities of the international, revolutionary, progressive movement who have excelled in the battle against imperialism and for the liberation of all peoples and who have markedly contributed to promoting relations and friendship with the Cuban revolution.

On awarding you this decoration, Comrade Mitja Ribicic, the Council of State, acting on behalf of the Cuban people, has paid a just tribute to a revolutionary who embodies the highest values of his people.

With this decoration, we are paying tribute to one who organized the heroic battle for liberation of the Yugoslav people, to an antifascist fighter, to a young Communist militant who marched in the front lines of those freedom fighters who sought to achieve the independence of their multinational country. We are paying a just tribute to your efforts of more than 40 years from various posts to build a new way of life and to promote socialism in your country.

This is the first time we have had the opportunity to officially express our recognition to the highest leader of the SFRY LCY, to which our party is linked by friendly ties, and thus we hope that this decoration will also be instrumental in expressing our admiration and deep respect for the late forger of the new Yugoslavia, President Tito, whom Cuba had the honor of backing at the historic first conference of the Nonaligned Movement and whom we received with sincere joy on the occasion of the Sixth Nonaligned Summit.

During his visit to Yugoslavia, Comrade Fidel Castro expressed our people's feelings toward Comrade Tito and the Yugoslav guerrillas who fought the Nazi invasion. We want to also ask you to regard this decoration as a sign of friendship toward the LCY, the government, and all the fraternal peoples of Yugoslavia.

Yesterday you had the occasion of personally feeling the warmth of the Cuban people, who welcomed you with joy and friendship. Your visit to our country at this time, dear Comrade Ribicic, is also a gesture of solidarity with our revolution, for which all Cubans are very grateful.

Yugoslavia and Cuba are linked by numerous ties, including those stemming from their common desire to promote peace and the independence of all peoples, from their efforts to promote development and the urgent gains claimed by the peoples of what is known as the Third World. We are convinced that these ties, our friendship and solidarity will be strengthened as a result of your visit. To convey these feelings and our high regard for you, Comrade Fidel Castro will comply with the Council of State's decision and decorate you with the medal of this order, which symbolizes Cuba's greatest tradition. Thank you. [applause]

Ribicic's Acceptance Speech

FL021614 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0045 GMT 2 Jun 83

[Speech by Mitja Ribicic, president of the Presidium of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia, at a ceremony held at Havana's Palace of the Revolution during which Cuban President Fidel Castro presents the Order of Jose Marti to the Yugoslav leader -- live in Serbo-Croatian with passage-by-passage translation into Spanish]

[Text] Esteemed Comrade Fidel Castro, esteemed comrades and friends: Allow me to express my sincere gratitude to the Council of State of the Republic of Cuba for the high honor of bestowing upon me the Order of Jose Marti. I especially wish to express gratitude for the friendly statements made by Comrade Carlos Rafael Rodriguez about me.

It is extraordinarily gratifying to receive today the Order of Jose Marti, whom you call the apostle of the Cuban revolution and who is known throughout the world, not only because of his courage and for sacrificing his life for the freedom and future of his people and country, but also for his progressive ideas. I believe those ideas are as current today as they were in Marti's lifetime, and they are of great importance for the progress of socialism in the world and for new and more just relations among men in today's world.

Marti believed in the liquidation of monopolies that were, as he said, an invincible giant blocking the door of the poor. But I am convinced, as Marti said, that the Cuban and Yugoslav revolutions are capable of defeating that giant. Marti believed in relying on one's own efforts, and that is also a slogan of both the Yugoslav and Cuban revolutions. It is the slogan of all countries belonging to the Nonaligned Movement.

Marti's words have the ring of those of a prophet when he said that a progressive alliance with the world, not with a part of the world, was necessary. Neither did he say an alliance with a part of the world against another part was necessary.

In receiving the Order of Jose Marti, I wish to stress that I see in it a tribute to the struggle of the Yugoslav revolutionaries, the Yugoslav Communists who, heading the working class and all the nations of Yugoslavia, traveled a difficult and bloody path to our revolution's victory, our national liberation war; and, subsequently, after the armed struggle, a path for building a self-sufficient and socialist society which observes a nonaligned foreign policy.

The characteristics which bring together and unite our two socialist and nonaligned countries are numerous, but I consider two of them to be fundamental. These are the authenticity of our two revolutions and building new socialist societies our own ways. Our two revolutions, the Cuban and Yugoslav, have made and continue to make important contributions to the struggle for socialism in the world.

Dear comrades, we in Yugoslavia are well aware of the revolutionary and freedom-loving traditions of the Cuban people, a people who, under extraordinarily difficult conditions, have been successful in the socialist struggle and revolution. We also know that the friendly Cuban people celebrate the 30th anniversary of the heroic assault on the Moncada barracks this year that opened the way for the realization of the century-old aspirations of the Cuban people. I wish to take this opportunity to express by sincere wishes for new and still greater successes in building socialism in your beautiful country for the well-being and continued progress of the Cuban people.

We know very well about the historic struggles which began in the Sierra Maestra and ended in Havana. With your struggle, led by Comrade Fidel Castro, you astonished the progressive world. Today, under very complex conditions, led by the Communist Party of Cuba and headed by Comrade Fidel Castro, you have attained great results in various fields, on the social level, and in your country's economic development.

All of us have contributed great numbers of victims and sacrifices for the freedom which our peoples enjoy today. From this emanates the closeness existing between our peoples, our determination to continue to struggle for the respect of human dignity, for peace in the world, and for the right of each nation to freely decide, without foreign interference, which developmental path to follow in the manner most suitable to the interests of its own working class and people.

Under today's conditions, which are very complex in the international sphere, at a time when mankind is confronting grave dangers, Cuba and Yugoslavia, as two socialist and nonaligned countries, successfully cooperate in the task of safeguarding peace and preserving security for all. We are convinced that the friendly cooperation between the League of Communists of Yugoslavia and the Communist Party of Cuba, and between the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Cuba, will continue to develop successfully.

Esteemed Comrade Fidel Castro, esteemed Comrade Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, esteemed Comrade Raul Castro: At this time I recall a statement made by you, Comrade Fidel, 30 years ago: The island of Cuba will sink before it is conquered or seized by anyone.

Something similar was stated by our President Tito during the battle of the (Sutyetska) River. He said: The mountains will fall and crumble before Yugoslavia falls.

Dear comrades: Allow me to once again very warmly thank you for this high honor, which is an expression of the friendship existing between our peoples, parties, and governments. Allow me to place this Order of Jose Marti next to the order given to me by Comrade Tito for my participation in the revolution and war of national liberation. I wish to express my gratitude to all of you comrades present and my sincere wishes for the future multifaceted progress of the friendly Cuban people. [Applause]

Ribicic Visits Santiago de Cuba

LD022244 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1950 GMT 2 Jun 83

[Text] Santiago de Cuba, 2 Jun (TANJUG) -- The LCY delegation led by Mitja Ribicic, president of the LCY Central Committee Presidium, met today with an exceptionally warm welcome in Santiago de Cuba, the second largest town in Cuba and the cradle of the Cuban revolution. President Ribicic was welcomed at the airport by Jose Ramiro Balaguer, first secretary of the provincial party committee. Several hundred people from Santiago de Cuba, a town with a population of about 400,000, greeted the guests from Yugoslavia. Juan Almeida, member of the Cuban Communist Party Politburo, arrived here with Ribicic. Immediately after their arrival, the column of cars went to the Farma Siboney museum, located some 13 km from Santiago de Cuba, where Fidel Castro prepared his historical attack on Batista's Moncada Barracks exactly 3 decades ago. That museum contains numerous documents in connection with the events of 26 July 1953, that is, of the "assault on the skies," as somebody has described the armed action by Fidel and his comrades. Though that action did not succeed, it was a prelude to the later victorious campaign by the ship Granma in the direction of Sierra Maestra and to the final triumph of the Cuban revolution.

After visiting the Siboney Museum, President Ribicic and members of the Yugoslav delegation also visited the former Moncada Barracks, which today house the historical 26 July Museum, and a school in this province, one of the most easterly provinces in Cuba. At the entrance to the Moncada Barracks, President Ribicic and members of the delegation were greeted by a large group of Pioneers with music and expressions of welcome as well as with the Pioneers' pledge: "We Shall Be Like Che" (Guevara). The program will be continued today with a visit to the textile combine in Santiago de Cuba. Tomorrow morning the delegation will visit the Isle of Youth where, in addition to Cuban boys and girls, several thousand children from other countries are attending school.

COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH MEXICO

FL021902 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1802 GMT 2 Jun 83

[Text] A planning and technical cooperation agreement between Cuba's Central Planning Board [Juceplan] and Mexico's Secretariat of Programming and Budget has been signed in Mexico City. Juceplan Minister President Humberto Perez has been in Mexico since last Friday. He and senior Mexican officials reviewed the status of the bilateral planning agreement, which has been in force since 1981. The new agreement renews the bilateral planning agreement and expands its objectives. The officials cited this new agreement as a new step in the development of cooperation based on the excellent relations between Cuba and Mexico. The new 5-year agreement will be renewed automatically and covers the establishment of Cuban-Mexican cooperation in the areas of planning, programming, budgets, and statistics.

COOPERATION COMMISSION TALKS WITH GHANA OPENED

FL310130 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 31 May 83

[Text] The first session of the Cuba-Ghana Joint Commission for Cooperation opened this afternoon in Havana's Sierra Maestra Hotel. That cuban delegation is headed by Hector Rodriguez Llompart, minister-president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation; the Ghanaian side is headed by Paul Obeng, coordinating secretary of Ghana's Council of Ministers.

On behalf of the Cuban Government, Rodriguez Llompart bid welcome to the Ghanaian delegation and expressed the desire to mutually expand cooperative relations which would contribute to strengthening the bonds of friendship between the two nations.

The Ghanaian official said he was confident that common grounds would be found to consolidate bilateral cooperation, and that it was their duty to take advantage of Cuban experience.

Garcia Frias Meets Obeng

FL022315 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2130 GMT 2 Jun 83

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Guillermo Garcia Frias, member of the Politburo and minister of transportation, met today with P.V. Obeng, coordinating secretary of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Ghana.

During the talks, which were held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere, the two leaders reviewed the development of transportation in our country, primarily in the area of air transport. Along that line, the Cuban minister explained matters related to the insurance [aseguramientos] of basic Cuban materiel and the training of aviation technicans and engineers. Paul Obeng expressed interest in expanding cooperation between the two nations even further and said he was pleased with the exchange of views.

COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH MAURITANIA

FL310150 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 31 May 83

[Text] Cuba and Mauritania today signed a cooperation agreement in the fields of health, fishing, and agro-industry. The agreement was signed by Lieutenant Colonel Diop Mostapha, minister trade and industry of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, and Joaquin Benavides, minister-president of Cuba's State Committee for Labor and Social Security.

This agreeme is part of the activities of the first intergovernmental meeting between Cuba and the epublic of Mauritania and marks a point of departure in the economic cooperation between the two countries.

PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT VISITS VOLGOGRAD

FL021900 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 2 Jun 83

[Text] Flavio Bravo Pardo, president of the Cuban National Assembly of the People's Government, has stated that Cubans are determined to turn their country into another Stalingrad if the imperialists dare attack them. Bravo made the statement in the city of Volgograd after noting the development that has taken place in that city since the historic Battle of Stalingrad, after which it virtually rose from its ashes.

On the third day of their visit to the Soviet Union, the Cuban parliamentarians met with Vladimir Atopov, chairman of the Volgograd City Soviet Executive Committee, who briefed them on the progress made in the city and on the work carried out by local soviets.

CARICOM FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING OPENS

FL022100 Bridgetown CANA in English 2042 GMT 2 Jun 83

[Excerpts] St Johns, Antigua, June 2, CANA -- A meeting of Caribbean Community (Caricom) foreign ministers opened here today with a call for the establishment of a big fund to back the 12 countries' fight against apartheid.

Antigua and Barbuda's foreign minister, Lester Bird, who has taken over from Jamaica's Hugh Shearer as chairman of the Standing Committee of Caricom Ministers Responsible for Foreign Affairs, said today: "We will argue that the time has come for Caricom as a region to establish firmly that not only our cricketers, but all our sportsmen and women must turn away from South Africa." He said Antigua and Barbuda wanted to see guidelines and regulations established, binding on all Caricom countries, that prohibit contact with South Africa.

The opening ceremony was also addressed by the Caricom secretary-general, Dr Kurleigh King, who said the meeting signalled the growing strength of the Caribbean Community in the area of foreign policy. He recalled that the committee, during its fifth meeting in Castries, had declared its recognition of the irreversible trend towards ideological pluralism, and that this trend should not be allowed to affect the commitment to processes of integration.

He said that the committee must ensure that political solidarity "is maintained as an instrument for defending the individual member states'" independence in economic and political circumstances which, at bilateral levels and at the level of the community, can so often threaten freedom of action.

The foreign ministers have on their agenda issues including the Caricom position at the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) meeting which begins next week in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, and re-negotiation of the Lome Convention between the European Community and developing countries.

CARICOM ENERGY MINISTERS DISCUSS OIL REFINING

FL022320 Bridgetown CANA in English 2317 GMT 2 Jun 83

[Excerpts] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, June 2, CANA -- Barbados told a regional energy conference in Trinidad and Tobago today that it supported a rationalisation of oil refining facilities in the Caribbean Community (Caricom).

"What we need to do is to set up the necessary mechanism which allows the one among us best able to maximise refinery operations to get on with the job provided the structure is there to ensure that the rest of us do receive, on a timely and consistent basis, a full supply of petroleum products, said Senator Clyde Griffith, Barbados minister of state with responsibility for energy and planning.

He told a conference of Caricom energy ministers that "without such a determination, the decision shall be made for us." In this regard, Senator Griffith welcomed the earlier announcement of Trinidad and Tobago's continued commitment to the region in this matter.

Senator Griffith had earlier informed the conference that "whether or not agreement on refining capacity is evidenced in the decision of this meeting, Barbados has again started a serious examination of its options on the "importation of products route." He said Barbados was nearing completion of its examination and a decision would be made shortly on the future of the island's lone refinery, owned by Mobil Oil of the United States.

Repeating an earlier observation by Trinidad's Energy Minister Patrick Manning, Senator Griffith pointed out that refineries all over the world were being closed. "The Caribbean must not be an exception," he said; "with Caricom, therefore, we cannot bury our heads in the sand and pretend that we are different."

Griffith told the conference that the concept of energy must inform the decision-making in the energy plan. He added: "I hesitate to dwell on this issue, but clearly the time has come for us to recognise that tough decisions have to be made on energy matters if we are to arrest the malaise into which all our countries have sunk since the onset of this crisis.

Speaking about the concept of industrialisation by invitation, Senator Griffith said it was "beneficial in many ways." "One may be able to cite statistics showing the number of jobs created by such a policy, he said, "or an argument may be made about the benefits of the transfer of technology." He said, however, this concept had its drawbacks. "There will always be a different ordering of priorities between the "invited" multinational and the host government," he said.

As an example, Senator Griffith told the conference that when the multinationals were present in Barbados, that country's import bill kept increasing every year. "In the last full year of a multinational presence, our oil import bill rose by almost 50 percent," he said. However, in the six months of 1982 when the people of Barbados acquired the Mobil Oil drilling operations at Woodbourne, the import bill dropped "dramatically," said Senator Griffith.

More on Energy Ministers' Discussions

FL030130 Bridgetown CANA in English 2358 GMT 2 Jun 83

[Excerpts] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, June 2, CANA -- Trinidad and Tobago today warned other Caribbean Community (Caricom) member countries against being used as guinea pigs by new technology salesmen as the collection of English-speaking states tries to slash oil import bills by developing renewable sources of energy. The warning was made at a meeting here of energy ministers from Caricom, which includes oil-rich Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Jamaica, Barbados, Belize, and Dominica.

At the meeting, Trinidad also announced soon-to-be-held discussions in Caracas with Venezuela on cooperation in the petroleum sectors: A willingness to commit about 25 percent of its petroleum capacity to the region, and support for a comprehensive Caribbean energy plan of action to be put before Caricom heads of government when they meet here next month.

Trinidad and Tobago's energy and natural resources minister, Patrick Manning, told delegates: "While oil-importing countries naturally will seek to focus on the replacement of petroleum by new and renewable sources of energy as a solution to their energy security and economic problems, the successful development and utilisation of these energy sources will be constrained for some time by a number of factors."

He listed these as the shortage of capital, the lack of scientific man-power necessary for the adoption of new energy systems, the retro-fitting of energy-generating systems, and the uncertain state of the art in respect, of particularly, "the more esoteric, new and renewable sources of energy."

Said Manning: "We must therefore be keenly aware of the dangers of importing technologies that may not yet be commercially viable and we should move cautiously so as not to be used, once more, as guinea pigs in the implementation of new technologies."

"...The cabinet agreed at yesterday's meeting that in response to an invitation from Venezuela, a Trinidad and Tobago delegation should visit Venezuela at the earliest opportunity in order to explore the many areas of cooperation that could be of mutual benefit."

Manning also told the conference that he had recently held a meeting with one of the major oil-producers in the region "in which assurances were given by that company that every effort would be made to maintain supplies to the Caricom region in the light of the concerns expressed by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago."

He said it was against this background that the regional energy action plan assumed considerable importance. "In that it would provide (Caricom) member states with a number of opportunities and mechanisms for improving the security of intra-regional supply, lowering product costs, providing common services technology, and widening regional trade."

Manning said he understood the plan would seek to rationalise the transportation of products and the Caricom refining industry, and would provide for the establishment of a financial support mechanism as well as some opportunity "for involving ourselves in the control of the distribution of products within the region."

Manning experssed Trinidad and Tobago's full support for "an action plan such as this" and said the republic was "committed to striving towards its earliest implementation." To illustrate this support, Manning informed the energy ministers that at a time of declining revenues, "we are ready and willing to commit approximately 25 percent of our petroleum capacity to the region."

GRENADA

HAVANA CITES GRENADA'S 'INDEPENDENT POLICY'

FL030040 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 2 Jun 83

[Text] Grenadian Prime Minister Maurice Bishop has confirmed his government's independent policy and urged the countries of the hemisphere to unite and resolve conflicts in a peaceful manner. Speaking at OAS headquarters, the Caribbean premier backed the Government of Nicaragua, which is confronting an aggression financed by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency. Bishop, who is visiting Washington at the invitation of a group of black congressmen, reiterated Grenada's support for the efforts of the Contadora Group to bring peace to Central America and expressed solidarity with Belize's territorial integrity and Argentina's sovereignty over the Malvinas, Georgia, and South Sandwich archipelagos. He also called for hemispheric unity to struggle seriously and eliminate the difficulties in the region. The White House has refused to receive Bishop but State Department spokesmen suggested the possibility that some State Department official may meet with him prior to his departure from the United States after his visits to New York and Detroit.

POLICE ARREST WORKERS DURING PUBLIC PROTESTS

FL020205 Bridgetown CANA in English 2346 GMT 1 Jun 83

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, June 2, CANA -- Nineteen workers were detained by police in Guyana today in separate incidents as public protests continued against food shortages, particularly a scarcity of wheaten flour, police sources said.

Fourteen sugar workers on the right bank of the Demerara River were held after demonstrating in the Leonora area for the re-importation of wheaten flour. A similar demonstration was held last week.

A spokesman for the detained workers said they had affirmed their right to demonstrate peacefully and would take similar action to enforce their demands.

In Georgetown, nearly 100 women and children took part in a demonstration in one of the main streets of the city demanding the return of wheaten flour.

At the bauxite mining town of Linden, five workers were detained by the police for questioning. A trade union officer, was among the five detained. The police said he was found with a quantity of foreign currency and restricted literature. The police said the money was found at his home. They did not give details of the restricted literature.

Meanwhile, hire car drivers on the right bank of the Demerara River went on strike today to protest against police action in seizing a number of motor vehicles which were transporting wheaten flour. The taxi drivers ceased work for the entire day causing hundreds of commuters to be stranded.

The Georgetown Hire Car Drivers Association has also protested against the action and will meet later this week to discuss the situation. More than 40 vehicles including trucks, a tractor, one speedboat and two planes have been seized in the campaign by the police and customs to curb the illicit importation of goods.

NEW NATION SAYS POLITICAL MOTIVE BEHIND UNREST

FL022235 Bridgetown CANA in English 2153 GMT 2 Jun 83

[Excerpts] Georgetown, Guyana, June 2, CANA -- The newspaper organ of President Forbes Burnham's ruling People's National Congress (PNC) says recent unrest over food shortages in the vital bauxite industry was a prelude to riots planned for this month.

In an editorial comment, the "NEW NATION", published weekly, said there was the possibility that the disruption of the country's productive efforts was not linked to any food shortages. "Perhaps there is some political motive behind the alleged food shortage issue," the paper said. More than 3,000 workers last month went on strike at the Linden Bauxite plant, about 67 miles outside the capital Georgetown, protesting their failure to secure certain foods in short supply due to a import ban.

"NEW NATION" said it had information to the effect that some people have planned riots for this month, with the intention of recreating the situation 20 years ago in Guyana when it was rocked by a series of racial riots between Indians and Africans. "It therefore seems that the unrest in Linden is a prelude to the June plans," the paper said.

It warned that violence would get the nation nowhere and said the government would have to adopt measures to ensure that peace prevails.

In the meantime, one of Guyana's most vocal opposition parties, the Working People's Alliance (WPA) has reacted to a charge by the "NEW NATION" that the WPA was planning violence for this month.

"The WPA reminds the Caribbean community, including Guyana, that it was in the month of June, 1980 that one of its foremost and best known leaders, Walter Rodney was assassinated. Two Junes have gone by with no record of violence on the part of the WPA which has institutionalised the annual Rodney Freedom Festival as a way of celebrating the memory of the beloved patriot," the WPA said in a statement.

It said the "NEW NATION" accused the WPA of threatening to take action in a country where the written constitution specifically, guarantees freedom of action to political parties.

"The NEW NATION which makes a practice of ignoring everything said and done by the opposition forces, chose to ignore the fact that one year ago, the WPA placed the food question at the top of its agenda," the statement said.

ECUADOR

FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTING IN PACIFIC PROTESTED

PA021432 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0607 GMT 1 Jun 83

[Text] Quito, 31 May (LATIN-REUTER) -- Ecuador today protested to France over the recent nuclear explosion at the Mururoa Atoll in the South Pacific. The Foreign Ministry said that it presented its protest to the French Embassy in Quito "due to the constant nuclear tests which that country has been carrying out on the Mururoa Atoll in the Pacific Ocean, and particularly because of the detonation of a 70-kiloton device, during the past few days."

The Ecuadorean Government asked the Paris government to "take note of and keep in mind . . . the concern of most of the world's countries over the consequences that radioactive fallout from nuclear tests may have on human life and on the ecosystems; the conservation of which should be the target of major efforts by all states."

MINISTERS PARTICIPATE IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS

PA011650 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 31 May 83

[Text] The foreign minister and labor minister have left the country on an official mission to participate in international forums in Cartagena and Geneva. Foreign Minister Luis Valencia Rodriguez traveled to Cartagena yesterday to take part in a meeting of Latin America and Caribbean foreign ministers on the city's 450th anniversary. On this occasion the foreign ministers of the Andean Group, made up of Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia, will hold a work session to analyze a document prepared by the Cartagena Agreement Board on the member countries' problems with the integration process and the possible application of that process so the group can continue to develop.

Labor Minister Yamil Mahuad traveled to Geneva, Switzerland, to participate in the 60th ILO meeting. At this meeting, Mahuad will discuss child labor in Ecuador, its problems and possible solutions.

PERU

IMF APPROVES SECOND STAGE OF 3-YEAR FISCAL PLAN

PY021831 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 2 Jun 83

[Excerpt] Peru has obtained IMF approval of the second stage of the 3-year fiscal stabilization plan agreed upon with the IMF last year. The approval entitles Peru to automatically receive $270 million.

ONE-YEAR INFLATION REPORTED AT 101 PERCENT

PY021836 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 2 Jun 83

[Excerpt] Today, National Statistics Institute confirmed the statement made by the economy and finance minister during a recent cabinet meeting that the inflation rate during May was considerably lower than that of April. The National Statistic Institute reports that the inflation rate was 5.3 percent during May as against 7.8 percent in April. The institute adds that the inflation rate was 101.4 percent during the period from May 1982 to May 1983.

HAVANA CITES AYACUCHO ARMY COMMAND COMMUNIQUE

PA021558 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 1 Jun 83

[Text] An Ayacucho army command has reported that it killed 59 Shining Path members in armed clashes. According to a communique, the actions occurred in operations staged from 27 to 31 May. The communique added that more than 220 people, including civilians, Shining Path members, and armed forces troops, have been killed in Ayacucho.

URUGUAY

MILITARY-POLITICAL DIALOGUE TO RESUME 6 JUN

PY011815 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0033 GMT 1 Jun 83

[Excerpt] Montevideo, 31 May (EFE) -- The dialogue between the Armed Forces and politicians will be resumed next Monday, thus the continuity of the democratization process, which has been outlined by the Armed Forces, has been firmed up. The meetings to discuss the outlines of a new constitution were interrupted last week by the Armed Forces, when the National Party threatened to withdraw from the talks.

VENEZUELA

CALDERON COMMENTS ON STATUS OF OIL MARKET

PA020426 Paris AFP in Spanish 1048 GMT 1 Jun 83

[Text] Caracas, 1 Jun (AFP) -- Oil prices have stabilized and the international oil market has responded positively, according to Humberto Calderon Berti, Venezuelan minister of energy and mines. He noted that, at the same time, the occasional oil market, known as the "spot" market, has stabilized, which is significant in view of the activity that takes place there at times of uncertainty in the oil industry.

Calderon will travel to Paris on Thursday, 2 June to attend the meeting of OPEC's follow-up committee that is to begin on 7 June, during which the effects on the market of resolutions agreed upon by the organization in London in February will be assessed. In London, the OPEC members decided to reduce the price of Arab 34 grade API [American Petroleum Institute] oil to $29 per barrel and to set a production ceiling of 17.5 million barrels per day.

However, the Venezuelan minister pointed out that OPEC's total oil production has not been "too satisfactory" and that it currently is only 15.5 million barrels a day, because not all OPEC members were able to meet their assigned quotas. Calderon attributed this situation to the end of winter in the industrial countries. He predicted that an analysis of the organization's oil prices and real production will take priority at the Paris meeting. OPEC's follow-up committee will also study the situation involving inventories (strategic stocks in industrialized countries) and exports from non-OPEC countries.

In this respect, the committee will analyze a report by OPEC experts, on the basis of which recommendations will be drafted for OPEC's regular conference of ministers, scheduled to start on 18 June in Helsinki, Finland. In addition to Calderon, this OPEC committee is composed of Ministers al-'Utaybah of the United Arab Emirates, Belkacem Nabi of Algeria, and Sbroto of Indonesia.